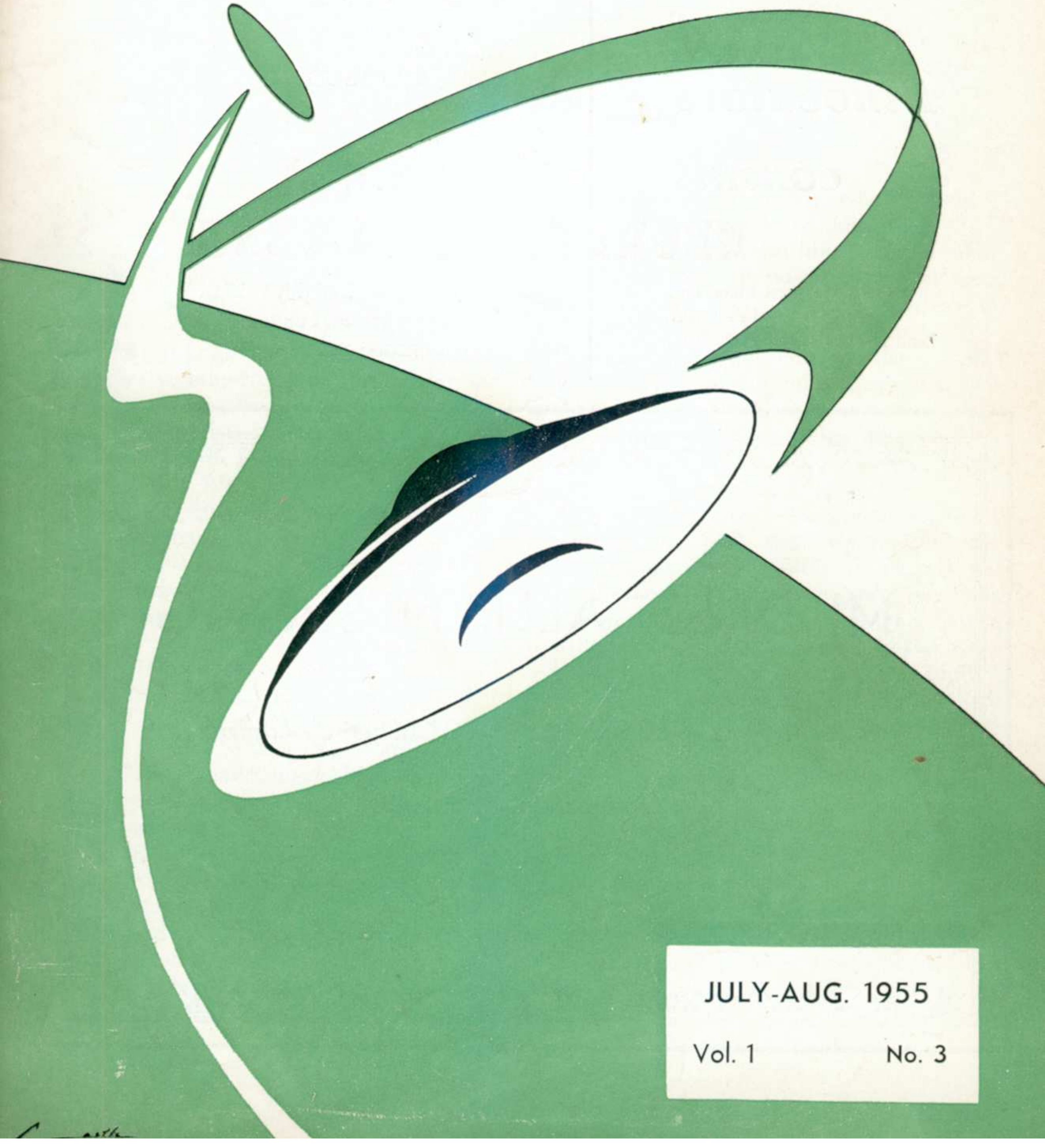
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW



JULY-AUG. 1955

Vol. 1 No. 3

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

Edited by: Derek D. Dempster

VOL. 1 NO. 3 JULY-AUGUST, 1955 BI-MONTHLY

THE sceptics have been having a fine time recently. For the lull in saucer activity has given them a firm peg upon which to hang their arguments against the existence of such things.

"Flying saucers are like short skirts—out of date," they have been saying. "And they are not likely to make a serious impression on thinking men and women again."

The odd thing about these confirmed disbelievers is that they would not attribute the lull to anything but the fact that flying saucers are an escapist vogue created in the minds of an imaginative minority. They would not believe that they had been seen daily over the whole world or that between the beginning of the last week in June and the end of the first fortnight in July more than half a dozen were seen over Britain alone. Neither would they believe that the Press is perhaps disinterested and just not bothering about saucers.

But oh, how the sceptic attitude changed when the *Sunday Express* said the Duke of Edinburgh had asked the Air Ministry to duplicate all flying saucer reports and to send them on to him. The Royal seal altered it overnight. No longer are the scoffers crying "Lunatic, crank!" Now they are saying "Maybe there's something in it after all!"

What few people realise is that a great many eminent men, including service chiefs and organisations, take an interest in flying saucers, and quite apart from some of the most important names in the land, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has on its list of paid up subscribers such departments as the Air Ministry in London and the United States Air Force headquarters at the Pentagon.

What does this indicate? That flying saucers are nonsense? Not at all! It means they are being taken seriously. It means the authorities want to know as much about them as they can find out. We prefer to think that it means they have an answer, however, and that they are anxious to know how much information is leaking out to the public.

That there has been a lull in saucer sightings recently there is no doubt and it poses the question so often repeated: "Where do they originate?"

Professor Hermann Oberth, the German rocket expert who has just taken up a new post on an experimental station in the United States, believes they are Vikings from another solar system. So do a good many other thinking scientists.

Others are convinced they come from the planets in our own system and anxiously await the summer of 1956 to prove it. Right now all the planets are, as seen from the earth, on the far side of the sun. Only Saturn is a little nearer and can be seen in the evening sky. Mercury, Mars, Venus and Jupiter, however, are at points on their orbits which are as far removed from the earth as it is possible. So that it would be quite logical to expect little activity at this time. By 1956 their positions will have reversed and in September of that year Mars will be closer than ever before.

If reports and sightings increase as these planets approach and reach a peak when they are nearest we will have to assume that there is some connection, and by 1956 we may have gone a long way to solving the riddle of the U.F.O.s.

LET'S talk SPACE

FLYING SAUCER OVER NEW YORK

From Warren Siegmond

ON Sunday, May 15, 1955, I saw for a period of about a minute and a half an unidentified flying object over Union Square, New York City. It was a particularly beautiful day. I had rented a small reflex-type camera and was shooting some pictures of Miss Jeannine Bouillier, of the French Government Tourist Office. It was a week before Armed Forces Day, and there were many jets in the sky to do some advance celebrating. It got so that after a while you didn't look up too much. Miss Bouillier was looking into the sun, and in the ground glass I could see that she was smiling. Suddenly the smile froze and a look of horror took its place.

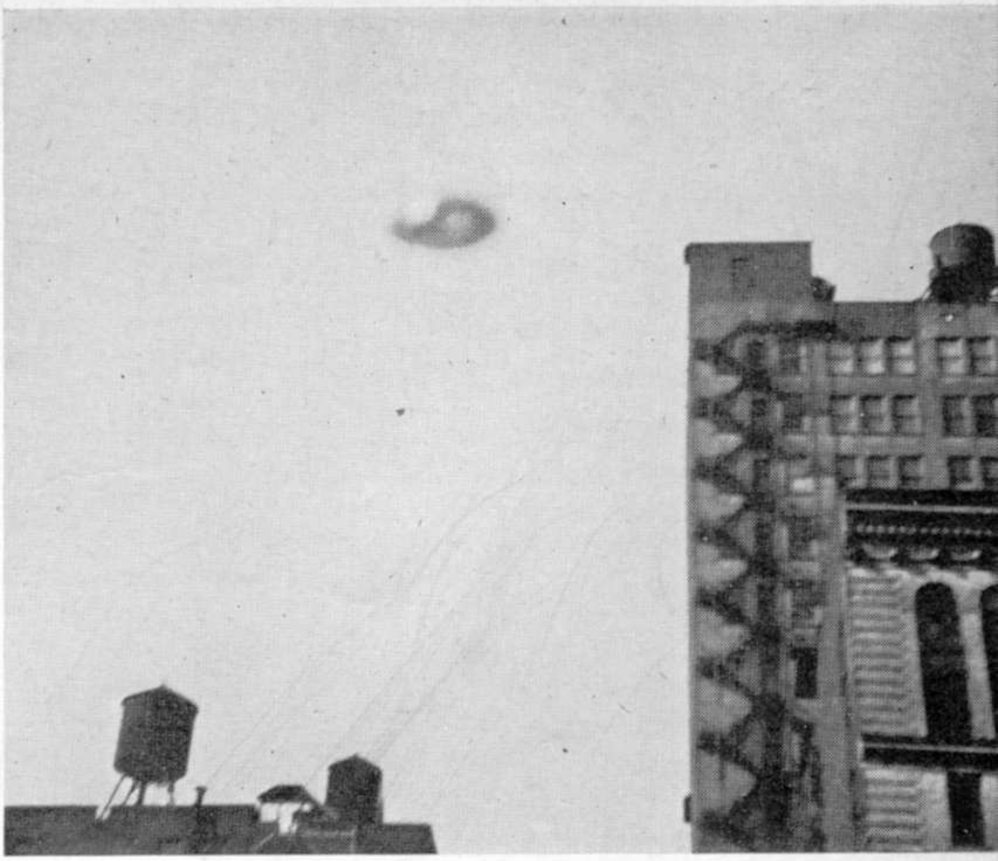
She pointed to the sky and said: "Quick, take a look at that!" She had sighted something over my shoulder, and as I turned I saw that she had good reason to get excited. For there just to the right of the sun was an immense ball of fire, glowing and radiating like a welder's arc. I had never seen anything as fantastic in my life. It must have been of tremendous size, like a full moon that appeared from out of nowhere. It was eerie, frightening, fascinating. I didn't know what to do. Was this what they call a flying saucer? I could feel myself getting tense all over, but I knew I had to watch this thing, whatever it was. It couldn't be a mirage, not that big! Again I looked in my ground glass and this time took a picture.

This thing seemed to have an unknown power for giving off a glow and just hanging in the sky. I clicked the shutter again and rolled up the film. I didn't want any double exposures on this roll!

The object seemed to be the master of the situation. You could sense a power to do just about anything it wanted to do. Then, as if it could read our very thought, it gave a demonstration of that power. It turned a dull grey and swung lazily over to the right and stopped in its tracks, just hovering. I shot as fast as I could.

Then I noticed another strange aspect of the thing. Even when just resting in space, the outline was very blurred, indicating a terrific movement. It was of huge size. But who could tell how big? You couldn't tell because you didn't know how far away it was. It was an unknown quantity, with nothing in the sky to compare it to. The jets were gone, the air liners

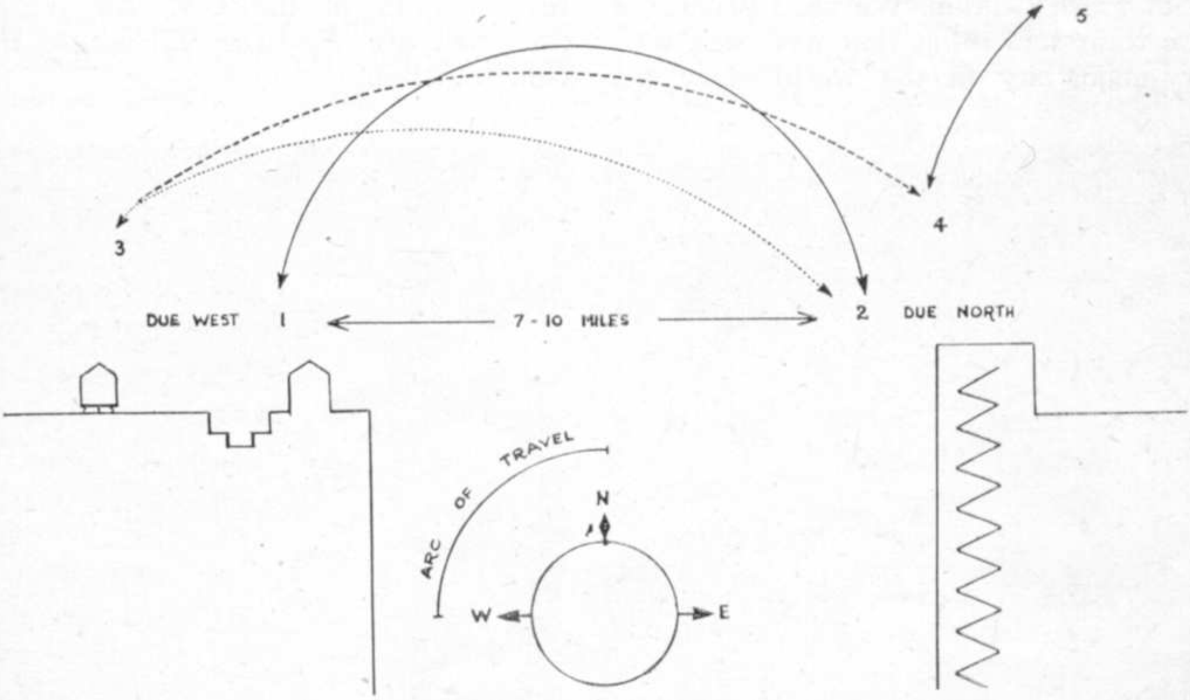
Warren Siegmond made five exposures. This, the second, shows the UFO's glowing properties.



Here is the fifth shot—the best of the five—which shows clearly the "doughnut" shape and the dull grey the object turned.

were gone. No one else was on the roof, and no one seemed to see this thing. We were alone. But how could that be? How could anybody be alone in a city of eight million people?

Then it moved again, this time to the left to about the original position. It was like a graceful ping pong ball now. It made a high sweep and settled down to an angle of forty-five degrees. The feeling of dread got worse than ever. Miss Bouillier froze, the way that people do when they watch a beautiful snake sway back and forth. This thing had no wings, tail, insignia, or markings. It left no vapour trail and, above all, it made no sound. We knew that because the planes had gone. I shot at a 75th of a second at my smallest opening with Pan film. I kept the lens on infinity. I figured if the thing came closer than that I wasn't going to need a

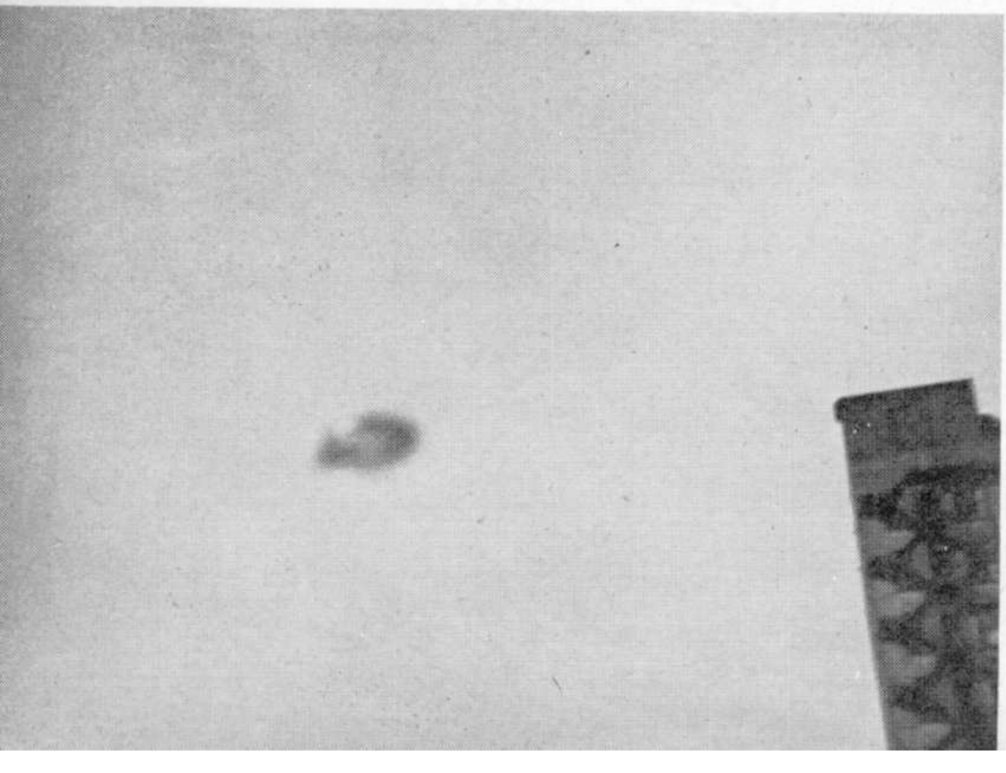


In this, the third exposure, the Saucer is still glowing, and its contours are very blurred.

camera anyway, so what the heck. I kept on shooting.

The object made one more swing to the right. It didn't seem to know what gravity was. If it did know, it certainly wasn't respecting it. Then as suddenly as the saucer appeared, it made a slight turn and simply vanished.

Miss Bouillier thought it part of Armed Forces Day. I had different ideas. This was something from out of Flash Gordon. We were privileged to see a certain something that has been seen over every major city in the world since the days of Christ. This thing moved like it had intelligence. There wasn't any water on my lens. This was not mass or individual hysteria; it was not an illusion or a mirage or light inversions or what have you. I believe the pictures prove that. The *World Telegram* broke the news with a big front-page story. *Life* magazine was interested in the pictures, and the Telephoto Service of the United Press sent the photos to every part of the world. A report was made to the Office of Special Investigations of the U.S. Air Force. They examined the negatives and agreed that I had seen something.



By the fourth, it had become a dull grey, metallic-looking "doughnut," apparently reflecting the sun.

THREE SIGHTINGS IN ITALY

from Ernesto Thayaht

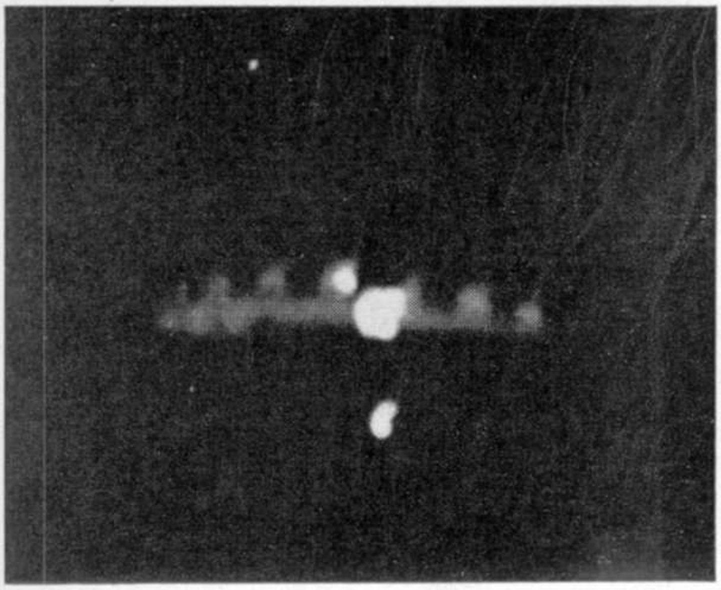
Here are three reports of flying saucers in Italy, selected from a long list of U.F.O. sightings registered by C.I.R.N.O.S. (Centro Independente Raccolta Notizie Osservazioni Spaziali, based at Marina di Pietrasanta (Lucca), Viale Roma 93, Fiumetto, Italy). They have been carefully checked, and the witnesses are known to be personally reliable.

AT dusk on November 4, 1954, a party of six people was walking along the country road of Santa Margherita a Montici, on the crest of one of the many low-lying hills to the south-east of Florence.

Mario Romoli, a well-known fresco painter, was returning home from a walk in the country with his two sons, and friends, Mrs. M. and Maestro T., a musician. Mr. Romoli, who had been looking out for U.F.O.s for the last two months, always carried with him a camera and a small telescope.

Suddenly the two boys cried out. Mr. Romoli barely had time to open his camera-case and aim his camera, before a strange luminous object came racing towards him from the west. He shot five pictures in rapid succession, then stumbled over a heap of stones on the roadside when he backed to get a better view.

Of these pictures only two are worth considering, but these appear interesting; enlargements show unexpected features, impossible to produce by faking. C.I.R.N.O.S. inspected the whole film, and had the enlargements made.



The first picture shows the U.F.O. approaching, head-on towards the camera; the second picture shows only the blur of very fast horizontal movement. Both pictures suggest rotary motion.

Here is the information given by the witnesses. The object was round, and looked the size of a full moon, bright straw-yellow in colour; it seemed to be travelling at about 1,300 ft. above the hill on which the party was standing. The speed was supersonic, but there was no sound. The object had two brighter points like headlights; one directed horizontally forward, and one lower down, directed almost vertically earthward.

The sky was clear; there was no wind. The strange body appeared to be solid and rotating; it shot past in a few seconds, disappearing to the east-south-east, into the darkness. It left no trail of exhaust smoke, sparks or any other signs.

The Florentine daily paper *La Nazione* of November 5 reported: "A group of people standing on the Peretola Air Field (north-west of Florence) saw a fast-moving luminous object in the sky at about 6 p.m." This observation coincides with the report by Mario Romoli, who claimed to have taken the pictures at 6 p.m. on the other side of the city.

★ ★ ★

Franco Pardini, a radio expert, lives at Marina di Pietrasanta, Lucca, not far from the Cirnos Observatory. On November 11, 1954, at about 5 p.m. Mr. Pardini was travelling towards Viareggio on his motor scooter, with his wife. Suddenly Mrs. Pardini pointed out an object hanging in the sky, motionless.

"It is only a kite," said Mr. Pardini. Then he noticed its height and position and realised it could not be one of the kites flown in dozens by people on the beach. He stopped the scooter and they looked again.

It was a spherical object, shining with an orange glow. After about two minutes it started to move southwards across the clear, blue sky. It appeared to become oval in shape as it gathered speed. In about 20 seconds it had disappeared in the direction of Leghorn, Livorno, leaving a broken, almost invisible white trail. The sun was on the horizon of the sea, just about to set; the night before there had been a full moon.

Mr. Pardini said: "I don't know what the object we saw could have been, but it was certainly something abnormal, and it reminded me of the flying discs that everybody is talking about. I am quite certain that it was not an optical illusion or a meteorological phenomenon."

* * *

This sighting took place in 1936, before flying saucers had been heard of; when aeroplanes were still rudimentary, helicopters were in the experimental stage, and jet propulsion just a dream.

Captain Mario Rossi, who in 1936 was flight instructor at the Italian Military Air Base of Orbetello, makes this claim: "On the night of October 10, 1936, I was flying my Idro S.62 Bis, with three other machines, of the same type. When I was at 3,800 metres over Cape Talamone I noticed an unusual light ahead of my plane, which for a moment I mistook for the exhaust gas of another plane of my group.

"But I realised this was not the case when I saw that the speed of the object was greater than that of an S.62, and that the position of the 'flaming exhaust' did not correspond to the exhaust in the type of motor installed in this aircraft.

"I went on following the unknown light, which seemed to be on a higher level than my machine. I could not see its shape, because of the blinding light shining out from the centre of the object, and the short, shooting flames that flashed out on both sides. In size it seemed to be about twice the diameter of a full moon.

"All at once I found myself caught in a very dense cloud, from which I emerged, after 12 minutes' instrument flying, to find I was over Portoferraio (Island of Elba). This sighting occurred over the rock islands of Formiche di Grosseto at 4.15 a.m. The object was flying at nearly 440 m.p.h., and was going due north."

CEDRIC ALLINGHAM SERIOUSLY ILL

CEDRIC ALLINGHAM, author of *Flying Saucer from Mars,* who went into a Swiss sanatorium early this year, is reported critically ill.

U.F.O. CRASH IN BRITAIN?

HAS a flying saucer crashed in Britain? This story, cabled to America through the *International News Service's* London Office by Dorothy Killgellan, a staff correspondent on the *New York Journal-American,* indicates that one has and that it has been examined by British scientists and airmen.

Here is the account, reproduced from the *Los Angeles Examiner*:

"London, May 22.—I can report today on a story which is positively spooky, not to mention chilling. British scientists and airmen, after examining the wreckage of one mysterious flying ship, are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions, but are flying saucers which originate on another planet.

"The source of my information is a British official of Cabinet rank who prefers to remain unidentified. 'We believe, on the basis of our inquiry thus far, that the saucers were staffed by small men—probably under four feet tall. It's frightening, but there is no denying the flying saucers come from another planet.'

"This official quoted scientists as saying a flying ship of this type could not have possibly been constructed on earth. The British Government, I learned, is withholding an official report on the 'flying saucer' examination at this time, possibly because it does not wish to frighten the public.

"When my husband (Richard Kollmer, Broadway producer and radio commentator) and I arrived here for a brief vacation, I had no premonition that I would be catapulting myself into the controversy over whether flying saucers are real or imaginary. In the United States all kinds of explanations have been advanced.

"But no responsible official of the United States Air Force has yet intimated the mysterious flying ships had actually vaulted from outer space."

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has made big efforts to get to the bottom of this account, but without success. Said the London news editor of the *International News Service*: "We tried hard to get the source of the story, but drew a blank."

Was this a party hoax, an attempt by the official concerned to sound world reaction, or is it true? The question remains unanswered for the time being.

FROM G. W. CREIGHTON

UKRAINE SIGHTING

(Translated from Природа. G.W.Creighton)

A LUMINOUS object with a rounded nose and a tapering tail appeared over several provinces of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic on June 30, 1954, according to *Priroda*, a magazine published by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.

Several witnesses saw the object which the journal assumes was a meteor or a falling star.

Among those who saw and described it was B. Y. Levin, a senior scientific worker at the Geophysical Institute of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, who was in Kiev at the time.

It was 9.26 p.m. (Moscow standard time) when he saw the object approach from the east at an elevation of about 22 degrees. Other witnesses in the same area saw it somewhat earlier when it appeared to be heading in a north-easterly direction.

According to Levin, the centre of the object's nose was extremely bright and that the tail looked like a rapidly-extinguishing flare. The diameter of the nose, he said, measured approximately 0.1 degrees and the length of the tail between 0.4 and 0.5 degrees. But these measurements were by no means accurate, he added, and may well have been exaggerated as a result of the vivid brightness of the object.

With regard to brightness, he said it was difficult to judge as there was nothing in the sky at the time with which to make a comparison, but he estimated its brilliance at approximately 15 star magnitudes. It was green; possibly bluish and yellowish at the front and the sides of the nose. The general appearance suggested a jet aircraft glinting in the sun, although the brilliance and colour suggested a rocket.

Y. K. Gulak, senior instructor at the Paedagogic Institute at Sumy, and A. F. Skorobogat'ko, assistant professor of physics at the Institute, reported that the object was seen by members of an expedition sent out to the village of Mikhnovsky to observe the eclipse of the sun.

It looked like a rocket, they said, but it was very much bigger. Its visible flight lasted between two and three seconds, and they calculated that it should have fallen in an area between 51° 10′ and 51° 50′ latitude and 32° 20′ and 33° 15′ longitude.

Correspondence received by the Academy of Sciences led the authorities to believe, however, that it disappeared farther west. So far no evidence of a crashed meteorite has been found.

A Krasnoznamenka citizen, V. P. Zelentsov. said he saw the object at 17 minutes past nine (Moscow time) for about two or three seconds. It flew horizontally in a northerly direction and then disappeared behind a cloud. Describing it, he said it was pear shaped and was approximately three-quarters of the diameter of the moon. It was white, something like the flame of an electric welding machine. The front was reddish. No disintegration sparks or trail were apparent and it was silent.

A few other observers made completely different reports, some of them reporting a crackling noise which ceased a few moments after the object's disappearance.

A similar object was photographed by a Norwegian cameraman from an aircraft sent out over the Arctic during the eclipse. The film was taken in colour. A still was reproduced in the Daily Mail

[Although there is nothing extraordinary about this sighting, the fact that it came from behind the Iron Curtain and is one of the first Red saucer reports to reach the West makes it worth publishing.—Ed.]

YUGOSLAV U.F.O.

(Text from G.W. Creighton)

NEWS has just been released from Yugoslavia of a sensation caused last October by reports from hundreds of witnesses of strange flying objects observed in the sky. The objects were spotted early in the morning of October 25, 1954—the first report of the appearance of U.F.O.s over Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav newspapers on the following day quoted statements by several of the witnesses. Aeronautical engineer Vladimir Ajvaz saw at 6.17 a.m. a "formation of three spear-shaped bright objects in the air."

At 6.19 a.m., standing on his balcony in New Belgrade, Air Force Captain Stjepan Djitko saw

a glowing mass which was moving, horizontally, at great speed. "I thought it was a meteor," he said, "and it seemed to split into four parts. The altitude was 13,000 ft. There was no sound. The speed was much greater than that of a jet aircraft. I saw the object for only a few seconds."

According to staff at the Zemun airport the flying objects appeared at about 6.20 a.m. "They were egg-shaped and shining, intensely orange. They flew at a great speed at an altitude of 8,000 to 10,000 ft.

Another report said that the object was bluish-green-white, and that it left behind it a bright trace like that of a rocket.

The day after all these reports appeared in the Yugoslav Press various people gave their opinions on the phenomena. One newspaper interviewed officials at the Yugoslav Air Force Headquarters, but stated: "People there were very reserved. They said they knew about these events and were examining them."

Professor Drazen Poje, head of the meteorological service in Zagreb, was asked if the objects were sounding balloons. He denied it, and said in his opinion they were a certain kind of meteor, or strange objects about which he could say nothing until the facts were scientifically established.

Another meteorologist, Professor Ante Obuljen, claimed that they were meteors. These were the reasons he gave: "They could be seen from a large area—almost from the whole of Italy and from a large part of our country. Second, the bodies were hot, glowing, and golden-red in colour, and left a trail behind them. All these signs are typical of a meteorite."

Two astronomers, however, from the Belgrade Observatory said that Professor Obuljen was wrong. The objects could not have been meteors—chiefly because it is very rare for meteors to be seen at that time of day and, most important, they are always accompanied by a whistling noise which can be clearly heard on earth. And all reports said, specifically, that there was no sound.

The two astronomers believed that the objects involved material phenomena from our world.

ARGENTINE INCIDENT

THE American magazine *CRIFO* (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects) received reports of flying saucer sightings from the Air Attaché of the Argentine Embassy in Washington. The reports had been cleared.

The U.F.O. appeared over the airport of Cordoba, Argentina, and were observed by staff at the airport. Doctor Marcos Guerchi, Chief of Meteorological Service of the airport, who was in the control tower at the time,. saw the object first. He said it was white, grey or bluish and fixed in the sky. It was rather long in shape, like a half-moon. When he examined it through a telescope, he saw that there was an intensely luminous nucleus and a less brilliant halo which surrounded it.

Six other people at the airport also saw the object. After watching for about twenty minutes, they saw another luminous body in the sky. The second one was circular, somewhat like a saucer, also with a very luminous nucleus.

The two objects remained fixed for about another half hour, then they disappeared. The first—the cigar-shaped object—moved slowly west, and the disc climbed slowly.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH ASKS FOR SAUCER DETAILS

THE Duke of Edinburgh has asked that all flying saucer reports received by the Air Ministry in London should be duplicated and sent to him, according to *Sunday Express* columnist, Ephraim Hardcastle.

Expressing surprise, Hardcastle said: "I had not realised that the Duke of Edinburgh's interests in mechanical contraptions extended as far as flying saucers."

Whether by accident or intention, Hardcastle has elevated the status of saucers from the usual run of explanations to that of mechanical contraptions. Such is the power of Royal patronage.

The Duke's interest in unidentified flying objects is not recent. When young Stephen Darbishire visited London after photographing a saucer near his home at Coniston, Lancashire, he was summoned to report his experience to one of the Duke's aides at Buckingham Palace.

DAM-BUSTING DOCTOR DESIGNS SAUCERPLANE

A NEW type of aircraft is being built in Britain. A revolutionary machine believed to resemble a flying saucer, it has been designed by Dr. Barnes Wallis, who made the famous dam-busting mines used by the R.A.F. to breach the Eder and Mohne dams during the war.

Dr. Wallis is acknowledged as one of the world's leading aviation designers. His researches into the future, which may result in perfecting a new way to develop lift without either fixed or moving wings, are being carried out at Vickers-Armstrongs' factory, where he is chief of aeronautical research and development.

Dr. Wallis has been credited with the design of the airship R100, and the invention of geodetic construction—the criss-cross framework—which was the secret of the British Wellington bomber's ability to take severe punishment during the war and still limp home.

The design on which he is now working may be hailed as his outstanding triumph.

ATOMIC POWERED AIRCRAFT ON THE WAY

The United States is making rapid strides towards the development of an atomic-powered aircraft as a result of a new approach to the problem.

The aircraft, which will undoubtedly be a flying boat to begin with, is the sort of machine that could fly 2,000,000 miles non-stop. Later, when atomic engines have been developed sufficiently to instal them in smaller airframes, it will be possible to construct aeroplanes capable of travelling those distances at around 2,500 miles an hour.

To speed up the project, the Atomic Energy Commission has asked for a year's grant of 37,900,000 dollars (£13,500,000). That is twice as much as last year.

The biggest difficulty atomic power plants present to aircraft designers and engineers is the tremendous weight of lead shielding required to protect crews. But recently it was reported that the French have developed a plastic material that solves this very important problem.

The material consists of a wafer-like substance coated with layers of opaque, high-density plastic. It is no heavier than balsa-wood and stops all kinds of radiation.

Atomic power-plant development in Britain is going ahead at a brisk pace and several aero-engine companies are now working on projects for the future. One of the projects reported is a rocket that will fly round the moon and back "telemitting" its journey to master viewing stations on earth. Guided by radio beams, it will be largely automatic in operation.

CHANNEL OBSERVATORY

A RETIRED instrument maker who firmly believes in flying saucers has bought a seaside cottage in Deal, Kent, and is setting up the first Channel observatory for flying saucers. He intends to spend his clear days on the 350-ft. cliffs between St. Margaret's Bay and Dover keeping watch for any which may appear over the Kent coast.

He is now constructing a telescopic camera with which he hopes to photograph any unidentified flying objects that come his way. The instrument consists of a six-foot long telescope with camera attachment which he will pull behind his car on a special trailer.

Mr. Wood will take turns with his wife scanning the sky.

FILM REVIEW

IN "This Island Earth" Universal-International have made a picture about men from a doomed planet seeking the assistance of earth's top scientists. They have put everything into the film: magnetic rays lifting aircraft into a flying saucer, high foreheaded space-men, the heat barrier . . . the lot. Technically, the film gets by, but the story is weak and disappointing. One day film producers will discover that a wealth of flying saucer material is available and that it need not be turned into science fiction to make it palatable to the film-going public.

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U.F.O. TRACKS AMERICAN BOMBER

by R. R. Russell

I WAS watching an American B47 bomber over Alexandra Park, London, recently when a luminous disc appeared over it.

It was at 10.15 p.m. on May 25 and I had with me a pair of 8 x 30 prismatic field glasses and a German field compass fully marked in degrees. I saw the B47 travelling in a slow arc at about 30,000 ft. and leaving four contrails; through my glasses I could see clearly the starboard, port and tail lights.*

The sky was almost dark except for a brilliant thin crescent moon which was on my right—I was facing west.

Just as I was putting away my glasses I noticed another single light coming in extremely fast from a south-westerly direction and what looked like 100 ft. above the aircraft. At first I thought this was a jet making an interception, but then I saw that the object was not like any form of aircraft.

It was a ball or disc, luminous and amber red. It was the size of a large pea held at arm's length, as seen from the ground, but clearly defined. It left no vapour trail and I could hear no noise. Immediately above the aircraft it suddenly stopped and stood still. About five seconds later it glided away swiftly to the left at a speed I would estimate at being around 250 to 300 m.p.h. After covering two inches in the field of view, during which it was moving south-east, it instantaneously reversed on its tracks and moved the same distance to the north-west. Again it remained stationary, for eight seconds, then shot away in a direction of 230 degrees at what I would say was well over 900 m.p.h. and disappeared. The B47 was still cruising on an extended arc.

I read later that on that day, at 3.2 p.m., a Transportes Aereos Portugueses Skymaster was passed by a grey metallic rocket-like object that appeared to rotate on its own axis in the vicinity of Cobham, Surrey.

* For the aircraft-recognition enthusiast. The B47 has six engines mounted in two single and two double pods under each wing. Although they leave six trails, the engines in the double pods are so close together that their trails merge into one, giving the impression that the aircraft has four engines only.—ED.

1953 SUSSEX SIGHTING COMES TO LIGHT

ONE night in October, 1953,* Mr. F. W. A. Underwood was cycling back to his home at Elstead, near Midhurst, Sussex, after visiting his father who was ill.

About three-quarters of a mile from Elstead he became aware of a very bright light in the sky moving towards him with a loud rushing sound; something quite distinct from the roar of a jet plane or the hum of an ordinary propeller-driven aeroplane.

Most of the road Mr. Underwood was cycling along commands a wide view of the countryside and rises gradually to Elstead, which lies almost immediately at the north face of the South Downs.

Said Mr. Underwood, reporting the sighting to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, "The light became very intense, lighting up all the surrounding countryside, and I saw it come from a very large circular object which I should estimate was perhaps 2,000 to 3,000 ft. up.

"The blueish silvery light appeared to come from all over it and not from any one spot. It was not directed towards the ground. There seemed to be portholes. It was something like the drawings of saucers which I have since seen and read about in the newspapers."

Added Mr. Underwood: "There appeared to be a long trail of light passing out behind it. It moved across the sky a little way off. It was almost stationary for perhaps two minutes and I began to feel scared. Then suddenly it shot upwards at great speed and disappeared."

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INTERNATIONAL SAUCER CONGRESS

MORE than 40 people from France, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and other countries attended Europe's first International Flying Saucer Congress in Switzerland on July 9 and 10. Organised by the Association Mondialiste Interplanetaire at 25, Avenue Denantou, Lausanne, the furtherance of the Association's objectives were discussed.

* Although this sighting occurred in 1953 it has never been reported before and ranks with some of the best obtained in Britain.—ED.

IF IT MOVES—SHOOT *by Lewis Barton*

Hi! handsome hunting man,
Fire your little gun.
Bang! Now the animal
Is dead and dumb and done.
Nevermore to peep again, creep again, leap again,
Eat or sleep or drink again, Oh, what fun!

Walter de la Mare wrote those bitter, pathetic lines as a protest against what seems to be a universal stupidity of man's—the instinct to destroy anything that has the misfortune to get in his way or that seems to threaten him. "Shoot first, and then ask questions," is the guiding principle. A young member of my family found in the roadway a small green lizard. It was probably slightly injured in some way because it was content to lie quietly in her palm. A farm labourer friend, passing, asked her what she was carrying and, when she showed him, dashed the lizard from her hand on to the roadway and ground it under his heel, saying that it was dangerous. His belief was probably sincere; equally probably neither he nor any of his friends had ever allowed a lizard to live long enough to prove otherwise.

Games

Coming nearer to the subject of this magazine, I saw a small boy come out of a toy shop the other day carrying a boxed game. It proclaimed itself as "Invasion of the Moon" and the lid of the box, in addition to the name, carried a lurid picture of those strange characters we have learned to recognise as earth men dressed for space travel, firing deadly rays and what appeared to be hundredweights of equally lethal shells at the astonished inhabitants of our satellite.

Apparently—at least, as far as the small boy is led to understand—our first visitors to the moon will not go in a spirit of friendly enquiry but will be prepared to fire at the first moving thing that comes into their range of vision. No wonder our visitors from space make such erratic and fleeting appearances. They know that we are not nice—or safe—to know.

Does someone protest that I am overdrawing the picture? Read, then, this extract from the Newsletter of C.R.I.F.O. (Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects), of Ohio. It concerns the sighting of an U.F.O. by four men who were together on watch in the Rockford area of Illinois. They sent in a report to the Filter Centre in Chicago. "Within minutes," records the Newsletter, "jets were up on an intercept mission and, according to the G.O.C. members, fired on the mysterious object, causing it to explode. Before the explosion, however, G.O.C. reported that a small round object shot out of the side of the 'parent' device, then, in horizontal flight, passed up the jets, after which it was seen to turn on edge and disappear straight up into the sky." The report adds that Air Force personnel moved in quickly and warned the G.O.C. members to say nothing about the incident. "However, earlier, the local Civil Defence Chief of the area did report the 'firing' to the local press—who, in turn, explained away the affair by stating that jets had fired on a 'balloon'," A stupid explanation, I suggest, because why on earth should jets need to fire on a balloon?

Alarm

But the incident—and it is not an isolated one—brings me to the point I want to get home in this article. We shall never establish proper contact with our mystery visitors from outer space until we can convince them that we have ceased to be trigger-happy—at least, as far as they are concerned. Assuming—and the assumption is a safe one—that they are beings of greater intelligence and scientific achievement than we, it is likely that they have progressed far beyond our state of jungle law. They must be alarmed, and possibly saddened, by what they have learned of our reaction to the appearance of strange objects—and they will, sensibly, keep their distance until they feel sure that a stream of bullets is not going to greet any attempts to contact us.

Let us have done with this immature stupidity; let all pilots be instructed not to press the trigger at anything inexplicable they encounter in the skies. If it is possible to indicate friendly intentions, let them do so. Only in this way shall we gain the confidence of any space visitors there may be. And when that is gained, perhaps the riddle of U.F.O.s will be considerably nearer solution.

TOWARDS NEW CONCEPTIONS OF THE COSMOS

by Arthur Constance

KING-CRABS, scorpions, spiders, ticks and mites form a thousands-of-millions world family which can serve as a microcosm of the human race. Ants, bees and wasps would not serve our purpose, although it would flatter mankind if we chose any such community. For man, despite his sporadic and superficial areas of humanism and culture, remains fundamentally nomadic, cruel, spider-like. Worse—he sucks his own blood for his armaments, and cuts his own nerve-centres in his industrial disputes. Make no mistake, his multitudinous virtues shine more brightly for the blackness, even as any spider's good qualities (craftsmanship, motherhood and the rest) are star-like against the horrific night of its character. Our microcosm will be found apt enough when we think of astronomers peering past crossed spider-threads fixed in some of their telescopes at the tangled stars; spiders falling from the sky in places like Carlisle (1869), to mention but one of many instances; and man himself, enmeshed in his machine-madness, hopelessly beaten by the spider's living, lightning-like looms.

Any of the 100,000 *kinds* of spiders (dismissing scorpions, ticks, mites) might teach man something, if he had the God-directed intuition of butterflies or birds. In advance of our finest mountaineers (some of whom found the Attid spider awaiting them, living on question-marks, 22,000 ft. above sea level on Everest), spiders have forestalled scientific research as flyers, divers, hunters, net-casters, tunnellers, surgeons and weather-forecasters. And I have no doubt that if man ever reverses his centrifugal truth-seekings, and starts searching in earnest, centripetally, his spiritual quest will be paralleled by an expedition through the world's orange-skin: only to find spiders ahead of him, in the heart of the earth. When scientists can tell us how *Desis* and *Argyroneta* have transmitted the diving-bell-making instinct through countless generations of spiders (despite the fact that an aquatic mode of life gives them no advantages in food-acquisition, nor any in avoiding enemies, as they simply substitute underwater foes for terrestrial ones) I will accept the monkey hypothesis and worship blind chance. But I watch a web-spinning spider, think of its 600 turn-at-will taps for running silk, or the metabolistic miracles it performs in coal-cellar fastings, and am irrational enough to believe that design implies a designer. Having committed the unpardonable sin of mentioning God in relation to science, I proceed to further blasphemies against the text-book deities, not unaware that my readers are already asking restlessly what all this has to do with Flying Saucers and the Cosmos.

My answer is that U.F.O. researchers, and in fact all seekers after Cosmic explanations, are finding themselves (as pioneers have always found themselves) hampered and harassed by a ruthless enemy, or (if you like the metaphor better) battering their heads against a brick wall. And the enemy, or implacable wall, is Spiderism. But before I define Spiderism, I ask your agreement with certain statements. This article being written for the sophisticated, and not for jibbers

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Arthur Constance, who is 63 years old, has been interested in odd phenomena for 30 years. Born in Canada of Gloucestershire parents, he has collected information about flying saucers from the remotest sources. His library has 16,000 reference books and 2,000,000 cuttings referring to the strange phenomena in the skies, on land and in the sea. He is in touch with observers all over the world.

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or gibberers, I am assuming that you have read at least two or three of the twenty or thirty books published on Flying Saucers in recent years:

... *That we have had enough factual, well-witnessed sightings since* 1946 (*apart from countless cases in previous centuries*) *to prove their non-terrestrial reality.*

... *That U.F.O.s come, or emerge, in a variety of shapes and sizes, and that they can change size, shape, colour or speed while under observation.*

.... *That, at the same instant, they can be seen yet not photographically recorded, or* (*alternatively*) *photographically recorded and not seen.*

... *That they can materialise and dematerialise while under observation.*

... *That some kind of other-than-this-world intelligence control them, and that "beings" other than earthlings have sometimes occupied certain types.*

... *That those controlling the U.F.O.s have made attempts to communicate. To gain general assent to this statement I do not imply either success or failure in the attempts.*

Lack of Data

I feel that these facts have emerged from the mountainous masses of sightings we have accumulated. Although I sympathise with Mr. M. K. Jessup's last-chapter appeal for intensified research, in his recent book *The Case for the U.F.O.*,* I cannot imagine that further accumulations of sightings will help us to find an explanation. The facts, like the poor, are always with us. Poverty has always been a problem. So have the U.F.O.s. In each case we need to examine the accumulated data from all angles, to find a solution. It may well be that all our social and industrial problems, and even the problems of atomic warfare and the threat of it, will pale into insignificance as light on the U.F.O.s spreads, even as stars fade at dawn. For the problem of the U.F.O.s is neither a national nor an international one—it is a Cosmic problem. And it will be solved when we have learned to think in terms of the Cosmos. Which brings me to a definition of Spiderism.

A spider—any of the 100,000 kinds—lives in a spider-world, conditioned by spider-habits, such as the making of any of the devices it uses to provide itself with food. If you suspect I am comparing humans with spiders, and think "we are more than spiders," I confirm your suspicion and agree with your statement. We are far higher in the scale of creation than spiders. And I am sure you will agree that spiders are far higher in the scale than some other forms of life. So that any spider might echo your feeling of racial pride and say, if it could speak, "We are more than aphides." I am comparing humans with spiders *only* in this sense: that spiders explain the entire Cosmos in terms of spider-habits, spider-experiences, spider-facts. Even as we humans explain the entire Cosmos in terms of human-habits, human-experiences, human-facts. Spiderism, then, may be defined as the tendency to interpret the entire Cosmos in terms of one's own limited consciousness, coupled with the tendency to reject all suggestions, experiences and data which appear inconsistent with the fitted-together facts of one's own limited field of observation. The essential difference between a spider and a man is that he has the power to penetrate his Spiderism. Spiders have not changed their habits in the course of centuries. Man continually changes his ideas. As he penetrates the Spiderism of one generation and reaches out towards more Cosmic truth, his tendency to consolidate and formalise his penetrations of previous Spiderisms remains. So we find that truths which pioneers have agonised to attain become commonplace, and form part of the Spiderism of a succeeding generation.

Limited Logic

If I could speak to a spider, I should find it quite impossible to convey to its limited intelligence any conception of our own human world. My obstacle would be its Spiderism. Everything that I said would be translated into terms related to its spider-habits and spider-conceptions. It would have its own limited "logic." Facts which fitted into that "logic" would be accepted. Facts which did not would be rejected. A man's face has no significance *as a man's face* to a spider.

* The Citadel Press, New York (1955).

A piece of newsprint is probably a kind of leaf. Spiderism prevents the spider from attaining any degree of Cosmic truth.

Is it not probable—even certain—that there are intelligences as far superior to our own limited intelligences as our intelligences are superior to that of the spider? How could such superior intelligences communicate with us? The obstacle would be human Spiderism. We should translate all revelations from them, all facts regarding them, into human-world terms. Return to the spider: Which phenomena would be *false,* in the widest Cosmic sense, among those observed by the spider? *Those things which the spider regarded as both commonplace and consistent with its viewpoint that the world existed as a place in which insects had to be trapped and eaten.* Anything which confirmed this viewpoint would be logical and consistent to the spider. Anything which did not would be miraculous and ridiculous. If a spider *could* reach out for Cosmic truth, which phenomena within the range of its observation would be most likely to be true? *Those which appeared ridiculous and inconsistent to the spider.*

Charles Fort

Only a few years ago countless facts of modern life—such as transmitting pictures through space—would have been ridiculed as impossibilities. The Spiderism of that day could only have been penetrated by seeking the ridiculous. All human progress has been made by humans who have questioned—in greater or lesser degree—the accepted Spiderism of their times.

Charles Fort had collected 40,000 notes under 1,300 headings when his *Book of the Damned* was published in 1919. How many more he had accumulated by the time of his death 13 years later I do not know. His plan was "collecting notes upon all subjects of human research upon all known phenomena . . . to try to find the widest possible diversity of data, agreements that would signify something of cosmic order or law or formula . . . always seeking similarities in widest seeming differences. . . ." In short, seeking the incongruously-congruous, the logically-illogical, the seriously-ridiculous.

When so-called facts "fit together" they are probably forced into position to confirm a theory. Varying viewpoints make police-court evidence more probably true when there are contradictions. Distrust the coherent—it has a habit of becoming unstuck. I have sought instances of the ridiculous, the inconsistent, the impossible, for thirty years. I have accumulated over two million notes or clippings, classified under 5,000 headings—always working on Fort's principle: that news-items relegated to unimportant positions by editors (swathed in Spiderism) are likely to be highly significant. The things science cannot explain. But my news-clippings, and 16,000 books (collected also with an eye to the fantastic), are mere material for quiet thinking—the numbers matter nothing.

Scudder Klyce

The men I envy are men like Scudder Klyce, of Winchester, Massachusetts, United States. Of course, you have never heard of him. His name, like the term "Flying Saucers," invites derision. He spent most of his life studying unusual facts and theories of the Cosmos. He wrote a book, and called it *Universe*. It analysed Einstein's ideas. It dealt with vortices. It went so far down into gravity that any reader felt himself floating in a bottomless pit. It showed how to get energy out of atoms. Eighteen publishers rejected the MS. The cost of publication, even in 1921, would have been colossal. One asked him to pay ten thousand dollars. The MS. had 250,000 words—thousands of algebraic symbols. Klyce bought type, paper, books on printing, and set the whole thing up himself, making and binding 1,000 copies. I often wonder where the other 999 are. Klyce was just one of countless pioneers who have tried to penetrate the Spiderism of their times. The seeds are scattered. Somewhere, somewhen, they come to life—but the harvest is far ahead. Meanwhile, numerous ships of speculative thought which never "came home" for their authors find haven in my library. I give you my conclusions regarding the U.F.O.s, for what they are worth—my reading has covered many unusual fields. We are making little progress in converting the man-in-the-street because we have no real explanation to give him of the unidentified flying objects.

Do we believe they come from Mars or Venus? I think it is far more likely that Meade Layne is right, or at least on the right track, in saying that

they emerge. From another dimension? What is a "dimension"?* What size or shape is our solar system? Yes, I know the answers—any text-book can give one a picture of it. Our oblate world, tipped on its axis, spinning in space, speeding round the sun. And the sun flashing through space. And the wheeling galaxies, and our speck of a world somewhere near the rim of one. And the nearest star in space—and the multitudes of suns, like dust across the heavens. And the entire Cosmos? Expanding or contracting, or both, or neither. And all the material Cosmos—the myriads of suns—mostly made of *what*? In the light of atomic research, *of empty space*. So we have a Cosmos which consists of multitudes of holes in the ether, the ether itself being more solid than the holes.

On Speck

We ask timidly *where* the astronomer was when he mapped it all out—compressing all modern astronomers into one for convenience' sake. Well, we find that he was somewhere on this speck of a planet, physically. But his composite mind was somewhere out in space. Of course it was, for his entire conception of the Cosmos was taken from a Viewpoint. I have never had this Viewpoint defined by any astronomer. From it the astronomer sees our earth. The North Pole is on top, the Magnetic Pole moving somewhere near it. The plane of the solar system is horizontal, the earth's axis spins on it, causing the precession of the equinoxes. The entire picture is planned—"seen" if you like—from an imaginary Viewpoint.

No one has ever stood at that Viewpoint. No one has ever seen the moon, planets, our sun and the rest of the Cosmos from that precise position. The Viewpoint is pure imagination, based on mathematical calculations. Substitute "clever guesswork" for "mathematical calculations" and you may be nearer the truth. The picture of our solar system—sun at the centre, planets running round it, satellites all in their places—is also a purely imaginary one. So is the larger picture of the Cosmos—astronomers are still making up their minds about that.

The Viewpoint has changed again and again. The picture of the solar system has changed—astronomers have continually contradicted themselves. But *we* have at last reached the true picture, we think. Have we? A human named Einstein comes in to it. We know now that space and time are illusions—that rods shot through space shorten, and alarm-clocks shot through space keep working but register no time at all, while bottles dropped from railway trains can travel (any one of them) differing distances in exactly the same period of time, at exactly the same speed. Astronomers, scientists, believe all this. *If applied to other subjects than the U.F.O.s.* If applied to A-bombs or H-bombs, or anywhere along the nuclear fission Alphabet of Destruction. But not in the U.F.O. field. In that field they stick to Newtonian mechanics. So Spiderism is a kind of silken shroud, worn by dead minds, which can be changed at will, to make ridicule more effective.

I am convinced that we shall make no progress towards an explanation of the U.F.O.s until we dismiss time-and-space ideologies. As long as we think of U.F.O.s "coming" from anywhere—Mars or anywhere else—we are spiders, blinded by Spiderism. We are interpreting the Cosmos in terms of our own three-dimensional existence.

Facts may Fit

Hold to that three-dimensional ideology if you wish. Conceive our world, our solar system, the Cosmos as material. Conceive mind as the product of matter, by chemical or electrical processes. You may find all the facts fit—if you choose to ignore the facts that do not. But even the materialists have passed out of that kind of Spiderism. If we believe in a material Cosmos, however, and nothing more, we are faced with insoluble problems regarding the U.F.O.s. I need do no more than mention that there *are* such problems for the materialists.

There are probably as many problems for the dimensionalists, the occultists and the religious researchers who believe that the visitants from otherwhere are angels. No research is easy, and investigation of the U.F.O.s is more difficult than most. I suggest that we concentrate on explanations rather than sighting-accumulations. And I believe we shall get somewhere when we dismiss the concepts behind "somewhere" and "when" from our attempts to find a solution.

* This and similar questions might best be answered in a tape-recorded discussion between Claudius Ptolemæus, Al-Sufi, Copernicus, Kepler, Einstein, Professor Dunne, J. G. Crowther, George Gamow and Hermann Weyl, a conference which I seriously believe possible, even probable.

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE PSYCHIC

by Wilfred Daniels

In this article Wilfred Daniels examines the psychic aspect of flying saucers. It is the second in a series of articles intended to bring different points of view on the subject into focus.

OUT of all the characteristics ascribed to the extra-terrestrials who seem to crew many of the flying saucers that have been seen in close-up over the earth there is one in particular of which the vast majority of people, even devout believers in saucers, fight shy. It is the suggestion that there is evidence of gigantic intellect, of spiritual superiority, and the ability to communicate with each other and people on earth by means of mental telepathy.

Most people who are prepared to admit that flying saucers are real, are material and mechanical and originate from other planets, are yet unable or unwilling to accept the idea that the Saucerians may be, by our standards, almost pure " spirit," although possessing flesh and blood corporeal bodies much like our own.

Evidence

The evidence which does exist to demonstrate that the interplanetary visitors do function on a very advanced mental and spiritual plane is frequently misapplied in attempts to discredit the whole basic belief in the interplanetary origin of the flying saucers. It has been stated that if it should be suggested that spiritualists, or trance mediums, have claimed messages from, or contacts with, visitors from space, then, *ipso facto,* flying saucers are spurious and mischievous nonsense.

But could it not be that just *because* of their peculiar powers of mental perception, spiritualists, and those with " psychic " sensibilities, may be the very people better equipped than anybody else to be sought out, or inspected at close quarters, by alien visitors in flying saucers?

There is evidence which I believe makes a case for such a belief. The latest stone thrown in the great controversy over George Adamski's claims in his book, *Flying Saucers Have Landed,* attempts to identify Adamski as a medium and states that his exchanges with the Venusian were made under trance conditions, and that Adamski " painted in " the story of a physical contact in the Nevada desert merely to make the story seem more factual and less fantastic. There may be some, however, like me, who find it just as easy, if not easier, to accept the idea of a " trance " contact rather than a " chance " contact.

On February 4, 1954, when Stephen Darbishire saw and photographed a flying saucer at Coniston, Lancashire, he stated that all through the morning he had felt a compulsion, a driving urge in his mind, to get up on the Fells near his home, though why he did not know.

In June the same year, middle-aged Mrs. Humphries, who lives with her husband in a lonely cottage near Stock, in Essex, walked out of the back door to stare dumbfounded at a 50-ft. saucer, motionless four to five feet off the ground, only about one hundred yards away. It flashed away with an undulating motion at a speed which must have been in hundreds of miles a minute. And she swears that " all that afternoon she had a premonition that something unusual was going to happen "—which it did, at about 4 p.m.!

On Thursday, October 21, 1954, Jessie Roestenburg, living in a fifteenth-century farmhouse at Ranton, near Stafford, had a 25-ft. saucer down over her garden about ten feet off the ground, and only twenty feet away. The two

occupants of the strange craft were seated side by side behind a transparent portion of the cabin wall. They had very high foreheads, long, golden hair down to their shoulders, and merely stared inscrutably at the terrified woman, who fled into the house. But she swears unswervingly that all that afternoon she had a queer feeling that something was going to happen. Mrs. Roestenburg has believed for years before saucers became news that she is psychic, though she is not a spiritualist. She had had spirit manifestations of the spectral sort, and one member of the family, an aunt, is a practising psychic healer.

Cold

On one occasion, a few years ago, Mrs. Roestenburg attended a seance more or less out of bravado. During the preliminaries she exclaimed involuntarily, "How cold it is!" The proceedings halted, and the medium addressed her, saying, "You are psychic—you have considerable powers." All of which suggests that there may be thought-waves, emanations from the minds of some, this lady included, of which our Saucerian visitors are aware, and about which they are curious.

Now it is safe to say that it would be ridiculous to suppose that only those who have extra-sensory perception are able to see a saucer. Demonstrably, if a flying saucer is seen by a group or crowd, all see it because it is "there," because it is a machine, as we conceive machines, and not something "on a higher plane" or "ectoplasmic." But as often as a flying saucer does get down close for intimate observation of one kind, the thoughts of the beings from other planets seem to get across before their physical arrival to those whose brain may function beyond the earthly norm, and farther along the path of the mental capabilities of the saucer crews.

An active member of a saucer research organisation has told me that he believes "they know where their friends are." It is indisputable that in the majority of the few cases recorded of flying saucers coming into close contact with people on the earth, the witnesses "had a premonition," or "knew hours before that something was going to happen."

A book was published in 1955 which purports to be a series of messages received under trance conditions by a medium from a scientist on the planet Venus. This publication has been widely derided or politely ignored, not least by people who believe in flying saucers as interplanetary vehicles. I have no opinion to pass as to the apparent truth or otherwise of that book, but supposing it is true? It is another piece of evidence of the kind already submitted. There is vastly more to be learned yet than has been gleaned up to the present about the nature of the flying saucer, its origin, and the kind of people who are the crews of these superlative machines.

Unbiased Examination

Perhaps there is room for an unbiased examination of the paranormal and psychic as well as the physical and mechanical in a broad-minded survey of the flying saucer mystery. Telepathy is becoming accepted by the better-established and more respectable sciences. Spiritualism has long had the great of many lands amongst its adherents, and should not be rejected lightly by the uninformed. If it has something to contribute to a better understanding of flying saucers, let it be heard.

PUBLICATIONS FROM ABROAD

LANZO DOVE, an amateur astronomer and one of the most persistent flying saucer researchers, is building up comprehensive data on the Venus-Mars-Earth positions in relation to saucer activity, says *The Little Listening Post*. This work might well coincide with W. Schroeder's article on page 17.

For readers who like their news in capsule form, *The Little Listening Post,* of 4811 Illinois Avenue N.W., Washington, U.S.A., is recommended and worth having.

* * *

A close liaison has been established between FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and the Civilian Saucer Investigation of New Zealand, whose President, Harold H. Fulton, edits their journal, *Flying Saucers*. Recommended, this publication is obtainable from C.S.I. Headquarters, 1 Nissan Place, Onehunga, S.E.5, Auckland, New Zealand. Price 2s. 6d. per copy.

CURRENT EVENTS IN THE HEAVENS

A BI-MONTHLY REVIEW OF THE NIGHT-SKY

by W. Schroeder

FLYING SAUCERS have, by no means, become a constant feature of our atmosphere. All the reports of recent years indicate that they are much more common at certain times than they are at others, and there seems to be a definite periodicity in their appearances. A systematic search for these objects could do much to solve the problem of their origin, but such methodical observations are still waiting to be made.

Daylight observations of flying saucers are always chance occurrences, as the objects have to be fairly near to be noticed; so near, in fact, that constructional details can usually be made out and photographs can be taken.

Systematic observations, however, are possible at night-time only. Practically all types of saucers seem to emit light, and this betrays their presence during the hours of darkness, even when they are miles away, at distances at which it would be quite impossible to see them during the day.

Unfortunately, however, flying saucers are not the only objects in the night sky, and some knowledge, however elementary, of astronomy is necessary to distinguish them from stars, planets, meteors, comets, and shooting stars. The choice is wide, but it needs only a few hours' practice to be able to tell which is which, even when the observing conditions are deceptive.

The short nights of the summer months do not provide many opportunities for a systematic search for flying saucers, but conditions improve greatly during the next two months. On the first of August, the time from sunset to sunrise is about 10½ hours, but the periods of dusk and dawn are of little use for observations. Gradually, the nights lengthen, and at the end of September the period from sunset to sunrise is nearly 12½ hours.

The times which are useful for observations are indicated by the dark portions in Fig. 1. For each night, a line can be drawn across the diagram, from the appropriate date in the margin, and this first cuts the heavy line marked "sunset," and the time of this can be read from the upper or lower edge of the figure. The next

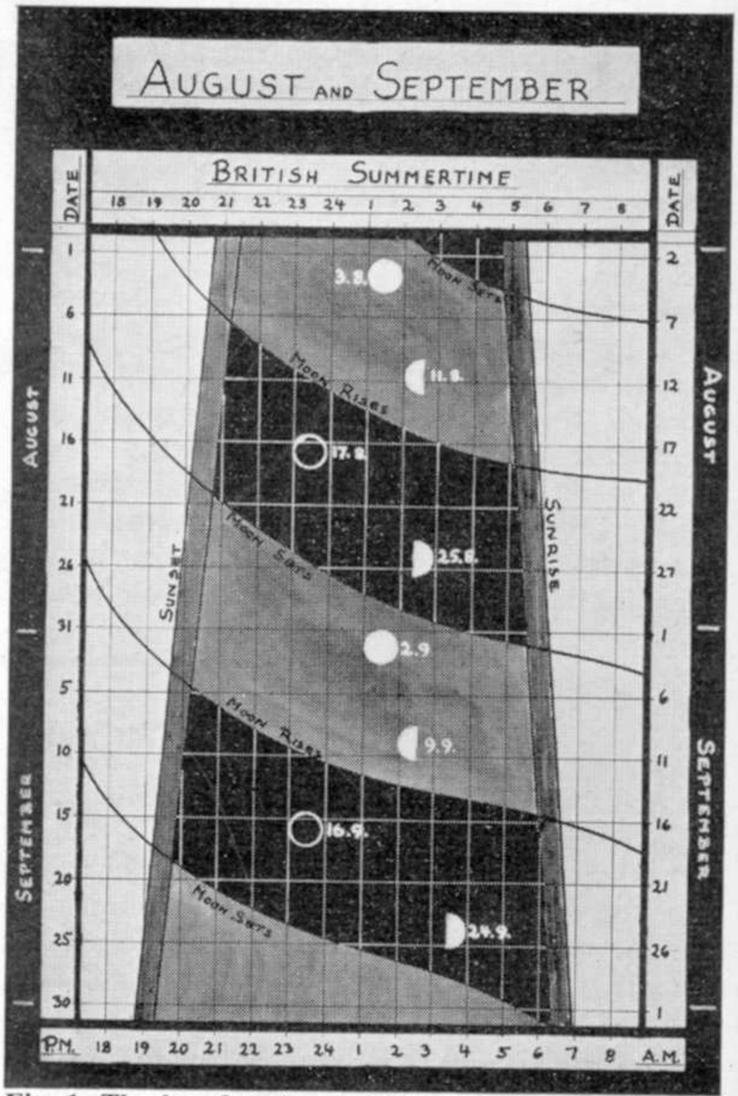

Fig. 1. The lengths of the nights and times of moonrise and moonset during August and September.

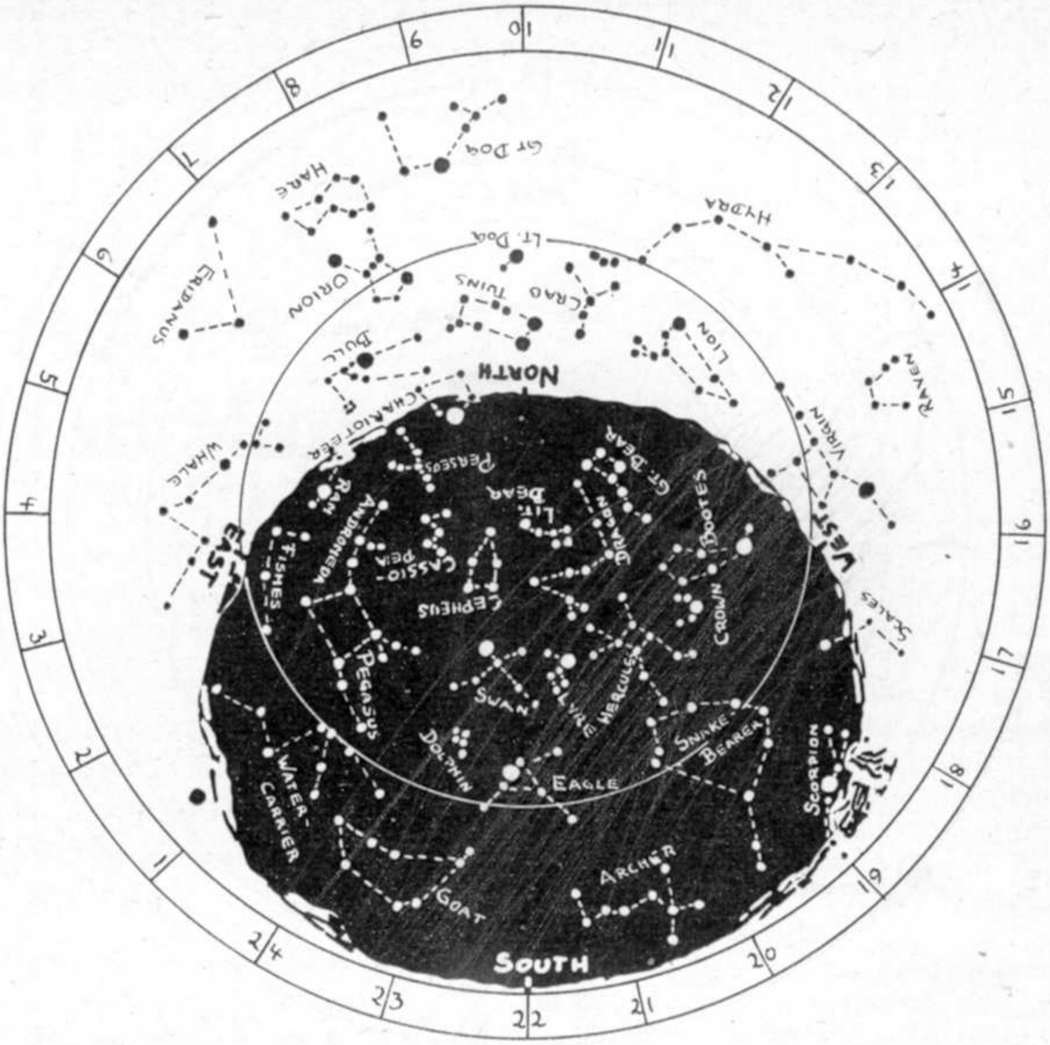

Fig. 2. The aspect of the night sky on September 1 at 22.00 hrs. British Summer Time. The positions of the stars are the same on August 1 at 24.00 hrs. and on September 30 at 20.00 hrs. B.S.T.

line indicates the end of evening twilight, and then night proper follows until the line indicating the beginning of dawn is crossed, which is then followed by sunrise.

Bright moonlight is the bugbear of the astronomer, and the flying saucer observer will find that his observations, too, are greatly hampered during the times when the bright disc of the moon is visible in the sky. The times of moonrise and moonset are therefore indicated in Fig. 1, and it should thus be possible to tell at a glance which time during any one night is most suited to a search. At the times of Full Moon it is never worth looking at the sky, as then only the very brightest stars are visible, and a flying object in the sky will easily pass without being noticed. At the times of First and Last Quarter, however, the light of the moon is so dim that useful observations are quite possible.

Meteors and shooting stars are easily mistaken for flying saucers, especially if they are of the slow-moving kind, or of the sort which leaves trails behind which persist for a few moments. Their appearance is even more deceptive when there is a thin haze in the air, as meteors then assume a disc-like appearance, which makes them look like U.F.O.s more than ever.

The difficulty of distinguishing between the two is removed, however, if we know when and where in the sky we must expect meteors. This is easier than it appears to be, as meteors always occur in groups, or "families," and all the members of one family always seem to originate from one certain point in the sky, although the visible parts of their paths do not necessarily begin at this point.

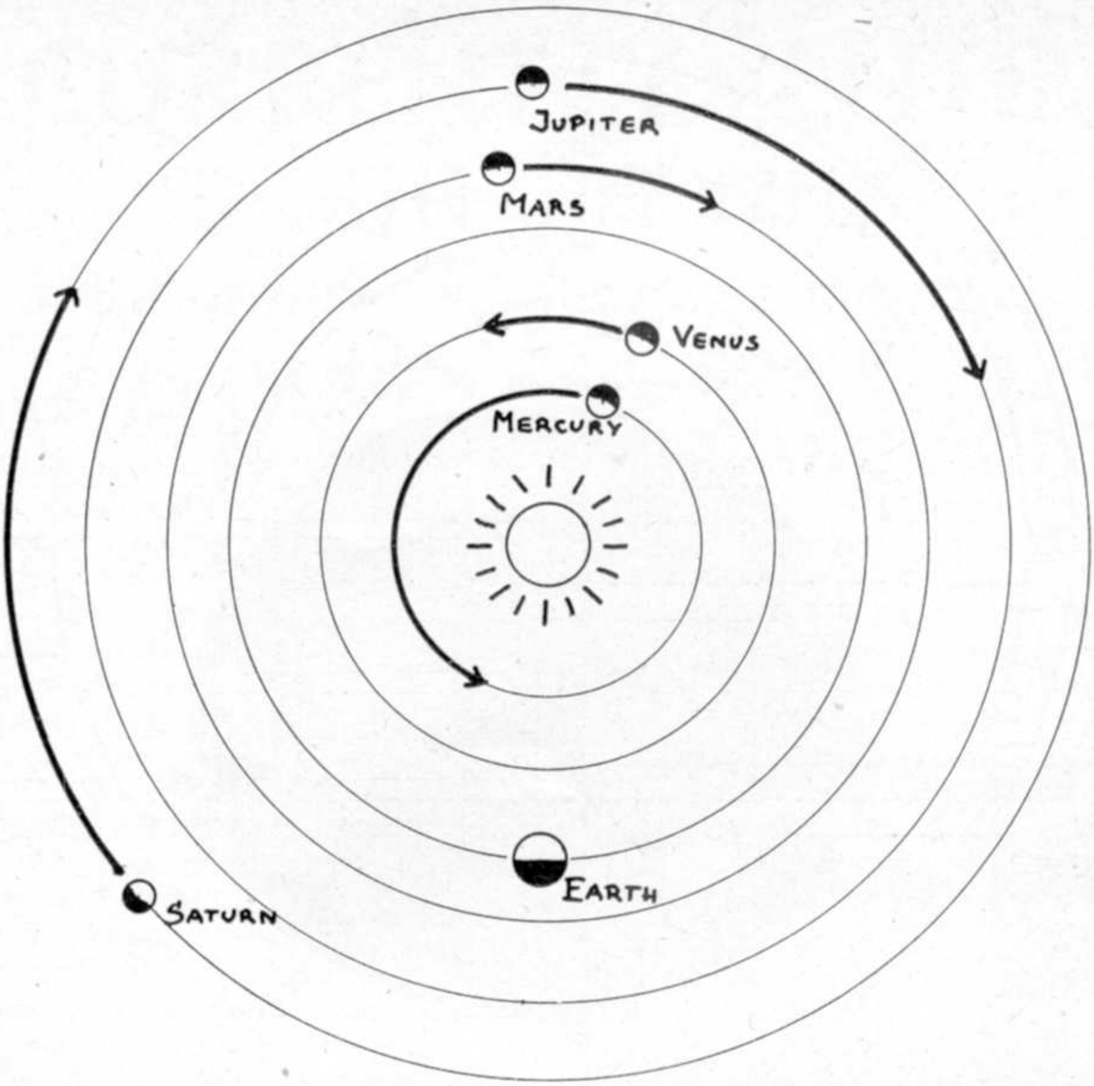

Fig. 3. Positions of the planets relative to the sun as seen from the earth during August and September. The circles mark the planets' positions on August 1, and the ends of the arrows mark the positions on September 30.

The most famous of these "meteor showers" occurs between August 10 and August 12. This is the shower of the Perseids, so called because their "radiant," the point from which individual members of this family seem to radiate, is situated in the constellation Perseus (see Fig. 2). The Perseids are very swift meteors, and in some years there can be several hundred of them during a single hour.

Bright meteors occurring during the period from August 10 to August 20 radiate from a point in the Swan, and these are the Cygnids. Their speed, compared with the Perseids, is slow, and the shower is not very prolific.

Very slow meteors come from a radiant in the Dragon, between August 21 and August 23, and another radiant in the same constellation sends out meteors which are also comparatively slow, but considerably brighter, between August 21 and August 31.

Finally, there is another shower, radiating from Perseus again, and this makes its appearance between September 7 and September 15. The meteors of this shower are very swift and leave behind streaks which remain visible for a second or two after the meteor has disappeared.

The origin of the flying saucers is still an unsolved mystery. If they come from one of the planets of our solar system, we must expect very few reports during the next few months, as all the planets are, as seen from the earth, on the far side of the sun (see Fig. 3). Only Saturn is a little nearer to the earth, and can be observed in the evening sky. Mercury, Venus, Mars and Jupiter, however, are at points of their orbits

Coming November

THERE IS LIFE ON MARS

The Earl Nelson

F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., F.R.S.A.

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WERNER LAURIE

which are as far removed from the earth as is possible.

If one of these is the home of the beings who construct and operate the flying saucers, reports of sightings will be rare during August and September. If, however, their home is somewhere in the depths of space, it must be assumed that they established a base on one of the planets, and in this case the increased distance should make little difference to them, as they would consider even this increased distance as a mere "hop" compared with that over which they had to come originally.

As the planets are the brightest objects in the sky, they are often visible through a thin layer of cloud, and they then appear like small discs. If, in addition to this, there is also some broken, low cloud, there can be the illusion of movement, and the planets are thus easily mistaken for flying saucers. During the period under review, only Saturn in the constellation Scales is visible in the evening sky, but the planet sets soon after the sun. But during September, Jupiter, in the constellation Lion, becomes visible in the mornings, and as it will be about seven times as bright as Saturn, it might easily give rise to false reports.

The brightest of the fixed stars are also likely to be mistaken for flying saucers, and the reason is the same as for the planets. In the evenings we have the "Summer Triangle" right overhead, which consists of the three bright stars, Vega, Deneb, and Altair, the brightest stars of the constellations Lyre, Swan, and Eagle. In the north, only a little above the horizon, is Capella, in the constellation Charioteer, and this is the brightest of all the fixed stars north of the Celestial Equator. Capella shines with a fierce, white light, quite in contrast to the yellow light of Arcturus, the brightest star of Bootes, which is preparing to set in the western sky, while low in the south-west, almost on the horizon, the giant star Antares, in the Scorpion, sends out its brilliant red light.

MARS ALIVE SAY SOVIETS

SOVIET astronomers claim that vegetation on Mars has been discovered to resemble that found on earth, according to *Tass*, the Soviet News Agency. This strengthens the possibility of there being animal life on the red planet.

ASTRONOMY AND SPACE-MEN

by Desmond Leslie

RECENT explorations of the South American Interior reveal some interesting things. Apparently, when air liners started regular transcontinental runs, the natives looked up in utter astonishment and fear. Tribal councils were summoned and, after much discussion and research into local theology, discovered that the ancient gods were returning. This was cause for additional fear because the ancient gods had never been particularly well disposed towards primitive mankind. Further theological diggings revealed the alarming fact that the return of the gods on their now regular shuttle flights indicated the end of the world.*

A little later, a helicopter landed deep in a jungle glade. One or two villagers, more intrepid than the rest, approached and conducted some kind of sign language conversation with the pilot and crew, who later departed.

When the goggle-eyed natives returned to their village and related their experience they were loudly derided, even though they had in their support the now almost daily appearance of still larger flying ships in the skies. However, as more helicopters came to be seen and more landings took place, it was eventually established that the gods were now coming to earth in their magic chariots borne on the wind and the voice of thunder.

Balloons and Demons

In some way we are rather like these natives. Mysterious objects are reported in the skies of one land or another almost daily. According to Colonel O'Mara, of Wright Patterson Field, the American Air Force filters nearly seven hundred reports each week. Although the majority of these reports can probably be explained as the incorrect interpretation of natural objects, there are many that cannot. Weather balloons do not, as in the West Malling case, suddenly put on a turn of speed that would outpace any jet aircraft. Meteorites do not change direction, hover, nor shoot vertically upwards. Light inversions do not have portholes. Despite their many and contradictory denials, the U.S. Navy and Air Force do have a pretty good collection of films and photographs of these unidentified flying objects, some of which show detail such as portholes, regular angles and polished surface. These photographs (which officially do not exist) make occasional brief and furtive appearances and have been seen by responsible people who, despite rigid "security," have passed on a little information.

Governments Know

As the matter stands to date it is definitely known by most of the world governments that there are some flying machines in our atmosphere of completely unknown origin.

Faced with a similar quandary, our Brazilian native comes to the official conclusion that the air liners he sees are the product of assorted demons and deities. While possibly one or two more enlightened of the tribe realise that these are the product of a more highly-developed civilisation existing elsewhere.

Leaving the natural jungle for a civilised jungle, we find that the first official fear is that these flying saucers might have been built by an alien terrestrial power and that until more is known about them it might be wisest to say nothing and, if pressed, to issue nebulous statements from time to time in the hope that if the

* Perhaps it does!

things do happen to be interplanetary they will eventually go away so that it can then be said: "There, we told you they weren't real."

But, like the natives, there is a certain faction who wishes to explain them as "fallen angels," psychic manifestations and multidimensional somethings emerging from a multitude of highly complex ethers. This latter school has proved a godsend to cranks and untrained psychics and might well be termed, for future reference, the "Psycho-ceramic School."

Now, the only objection to the "Alien Power Theory" is that these saucers have been flying around all over the world (of friend and foe alike) for rather a long time. Researches show that they appeared in large numbers and were seen by eminent astronomers years before the Wright Brothers had made their first successful heavier-than-air flight. In that case, any earthly power which had them in its possession must be of a very peaceable nature, for it could have conquered the world, practically overnight, any time it so chose. Even today, a country possessing aircraft which have been tracked at 19,000 miles an hour would not need a conference table; it could literally dictate any terms it desired.

However, it is more than likely that every major power is attempting to build a craft on these lines, and such craft could easily be mistaken for the "genuine saucers," so vigilance is necessary until the solution has been reached once and for all.

Seen on Ground

Meantime, we have an increasing number of people, all over the world, who claim they have encountered these mysterious machines actually on the ground and have conversed with their pilots. They find themselves in much the same predicament as our natives who saw the helicopter come down. Despite the almost daily evidence of such craft in the skies, they are laughed to scorn and called liars, and their case is nowise helped when the "Psycho-ceramics" rush headlong to their support.

Concerning landing reports, the case at present is fairly clear cut. Either these people are telling the truth, or they are not. If they are telling the truth and their visitors have in fact come from other portions of our Solar System, then the greater part of modern planetary astronomy can be thrown out of the window.

To dismiss such claims offhand is the lazy way out, and is too often the attitude of scientists who are not scientific enough to make personal investigations. A well-known lunar astronomer who recently took the trouble to investigate a landing report in Scotland told me that he was certain the witness was speaking the truth, but had seen a unique type of earthly flying machine land and, either he had drawn false conclusions, or else the occupant had deliberately misled him. He felt that in the latter case the occupant had come from earth and was part of a scheme to deceive us into thinking the saucers to be interplanetary.

According to his ideas, the astronomer was perfectly correct. Our analysis of the planets shows atmospheres and temperatures totally unsuited to human life, as we know it. Should a planetary man come to earth he would find our conditions intolerable and would require breathing apparatus. In this particular instance, the visiting "Martian" had possessed a breathing tube of sorts.

Mars and Venus

In the case of Venus, our nearest planetary neighbour, not very much is known. The outer layer of its dense atmosphere appears to consist mainly of carbon dioxide. But no one has ever measured the lower atmosphere. One school of astronomy thinks the Venusian surface consists of dry dusty deserts, rather too hot for comfort; another, more recent school emanating from Harvard, contends that it is mainly ocean, and a chilly one at that. So between hot desert and frigid ocean you have every climatic condition imaginable to select from. Take your choice.

Mars is a different picture. While there is a possibility (I speak now purely in concepts of modern astronomy) of human life on Venus, the Martian air, though not impossible regarding temperature, is too thin for lungs like ours to function.

As for the great outer planets—methane, sub zero temperatures, collosal gravities; all these make a very sound arguments against the existence of planetary men akin to "homo sapiens" (delightful phrase).

However, no Martian observer has completely closed his mind to "Martians." The most recent book on Mars (*The Green and Red Planet*, by Dr. Hubertus Strughold) ends by conceding that

we might have overlooked " some crucial factor " in our analyses and that the author, for one, would be most gratified to find his negative conclusions incorrect.

Now how do we obtain information on worlds tens of millions of miles distant from our own? Chiefly by means of the spectroscope, bolometer and thermocouple. It is assumed that because a spectroscope in a laboratory will give accurate information on the composition of a subject a few feet away, by analysing the light therefrom, it will do the same when the subject is tens of hundreds of millions miles distant. If the quality of light does not change in " travelling " these vast distances either by " slowing down " or passing through intervening media finely present in space, then our spectroscopic analyses must be presumed correct. If the light we are getting at our end is identical to the light that was reflected from the planet in question, that is.

But is it?

Accuracy

The bolometer and the thermocouple seem to support and substantiate what the spectroscope tells us, so the odds appear weighted against the space-men. But things in Nature have a horrid habit of ignoring our lines of research and existing with or without our cognition or kind approval. We have not yet been able to make completely true allowances even for the effect of our own atmosphere, and until we can get a fully-equipped observatory out on to a space platform, high above the last remnants of our air, we shall not be quite certain. Even then, we should first know the composition of space itself and thus allow for any interference it may have had upon the free passage of light over those vast distances. If an instrument could be devised that would send back data from space, yard by yard, we could first plot the composition of substance (diffuse though it may be) intervening between here and the planets, and then deduct it from our findings to obtain a true and certain analysis. Until then, we cannot say with absolute certainty that Uranus is covered in methane, unless we have first paid it a personal visit. The alternative is that Uranians, Saturnians, Venusians, etc., deign to visit us first, which some swear by all they hold sacred has already happened.

If the discovery be made that the " canals " of Mars follow true Great Circles, that alone would be considered proof that they are the work of intelligent beings, but it would not prove that the aforesaid intelligent beings (let's call them "men" and have done with it) still live on Mars. Whether the canals were the work of an extant or a departed race would still have to be established.

Back in October, 1953, seven members of the Norwich Astronomical Society observed a brilliantly-lit flying saucer, complete with dome and five portholes streaming light, sail silently over the city of Norwich. Others observed its return passage. This event was raised in a radio discussion on the B.B.C. but no attempt to explain it was made by Professor A. B. Lovell, of Manchester University, who devoted most of his time on the air that night to boosting the sales of my book, *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, by furiously attacking it. Later, the event reached the House of Commons. Mr. Nigel Birch, who was deputising for his Minister, sidestepped the issue by disclaiming cognizance of the proceedings of the Norwich Astronomical Society, and went on to reassure Members that the "balloon" which had exceeded 800 m.p.h. over West Malling was in fact a balloon.

Icy Silence

Meanwhile, despite all the rules, astronomers continue to see flying saucers in their telescopes. It is not really right that they should do so, and their reports, when dutifully sent in to Mt. Palomar or the B.A.A., are met with icy silence. For example, Mr. Harold Hill, well-known Lunar Astronomer, made observations lasting twenty-five minutes through his twelve-inch telescope on July 8, 1954—lasting from 9.30 p.m. to 9.55 p.m. (B.S.T.). This is his report in abbreviated form:

" I detected at an altitude of approximately 55° in the southern sky a bright star-like object resembling the planet Venus. It was, however, considerably brighter than even the lustrous Venus would appear on so bright a background and, anyway, the planet was low down in the sunset sky. Immediately, thoughts of a *supernova* or ' new ' star flashed into my mind.

" I opened up the observatory to bring the twelve-inch telescope to bear.

" Whilst the ' star ' was readily visible in the finder (auxiliary telescope attached to the main twelve-inch instrument) the much smaller field of the high-power eyepiece could not be trained

on the precise spot in the sky. To avoid wasting valuable time I had to resort to a low-power wide-field eyepiece (× 50 and 35 of arc in extent).

"What was seen was as amazing as it was unexpected. There was a principal bright silvery object of indeterminate shape accompanied to the left by a cluster of what appeared to be minute stars of different degrees of brightness. The components numbered from fifteen to twenty, although it was very difficult to estimate their precise number because the members of the cluster changed their positions independently of one another.

"The whole scene gave the impression of being one of great activity—it was utterly unlike anything I had previously observed in the heavens. My wife confirmed the appearance in the twelve-inch telescope.

"The increased movements of the objects made following in the twelve-inch telescope more difficult and they passed out of the field as an adjustment had to be made in declination to the instrument. Continued sweeping of the region failed to recover them, and clouds finally brought observations to a close at 9.55 p.m. (B.S.T.)

"The impression given was that the phenomenon was at a tremendous height, probably in the upper-reaches of the stratosphere or even beyond, because the small star-like objects of the dusk had shown no sensible size even with a power of × 50. The two principal members defied description. They flashed as they gyrated as though metallic surfaces were reflecting the rays of the sun. Probably the closest analogy to what was seen is to be found in the flashing of the facets of a diamond as it is turned in strong light.

(*Signed*) *Harold Hill.*"

Parent Ship

In his accompanying letter Mr. Hill told me:

"What I could not understand was why the principal silvery object I first saw appeared duple in the later stages of my twenty-five-minute observation. It was much later that same night when I hit on the feasible explanation. I believe that what was seen was a cylindrical or cigar-shaped object (parent ship) viewed end-on at first. In the later stages the craft turned sideways, so that I could see both ends which were either illuminated or reflecting the light of the setting sun, so giving the impression of two separate objects. The much smaller 'stellar' objects might well have been the so-called scout craft having a rendezvous with the mother ship."

Mr. Hill has been an astronomer for nearly twenty years and a member of the British Astronomical Association for eleven years. He is convinced that what he saw was not of astronomical origin. So far the B.A.A. have not even acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Hill's report!

This summer an excellent four-page report reached me from W. Oliver, of Southampton, who two months earlier made an even more remarkable observation, lasting just 7½ minutes, of a whole squadron of domed, turreted saucers, with brightly-lit portholes in leisurely and majestic transit of the moon. Mr. Oliver's report is presented here (slightly condensed):

Whole Squadron

"About 11.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15, 1954, I began observing the moon through my three-inch telescope. After trying various high-powered eyepieces, I switched over to a 45 ×. At 12.27½ precisely I picked up a cluster of vivid blue pinpoints approaching the moon. They were moving in a V-shaped formation. I was able to count fourteen such objects.

"I followed them across the moon, against which they showed up black. From their silhouette I was able to get an idea of their shape; they were flat, with something rising up in the centre. I re-counted them and found there were eighteen altogether. They moved west to east—passing over the craters Taruntius and Cavalerius.

"As they completed their transit, I locked my telescope and changed to a 200 × eyepiece. Fortunately, I was able to pick them up again some distance from the moon and was able to obtain a splendid view of the objects on the arm of the 'V' nearest to me.

"There were eight along this line, three small, two large and three small. I could see five lighted windows in each of the larger craft, and bright pinpoints of light along the raised sections of the smaller craft.

"Regarding this raised centre section, I could now see, with the 200 × eyepiece, that it was some form of turret or dome. Apart from the difference in size, all the objects were of the same constructional design.

"My observation lasted for about eight

minutes, during which I heard no noise, nor did I see any flaming jets or smoke-trails. But, towards the end of the observation, a red light suddenly came from the dome of the leading craft—possibly a signal of some sort—although this in no way affected the brilliant blue light in the centre of the turret. I continued to watch this formation until the distance became too great for accurate observation (12.35 approx.)."

Apart from being one of the finest scientific reports yet in existence, Mr. Oliver's sighting establishes beyond all doubt that the things he saw were not high-altitude atmospheric phenomena because, during their transit of the lunar disk, they appeared in silhouette and were therefore solid bodies. The only other solid bodies that could be wandering around at that altitude are meteorites or asteroids, and these, so far, have not been fitted with illuminated windows, turrets and flashing red lights; nor have they been taught to fly in close formation. The only remaining alternative is to call Mr. Oliver a liar, which would hardly be the reaction of an educated man of science, one hopes!

But, alas, one's hopes for impartial judgment from those who should know better are not always well founded. I was discussing saucers recently with an eminent analyst. All went well until I trotted out an irrefutable case of a similar nature, whereupon the gentleman concerned snapped back: "I don't believe you," thereby putting himself on the same level as those learned scholastics who said that Gallileo had bewitched his telescope, when it revealed the movements of Jupiter's moons.

I also sent a copy of Mr. Oliver's report to a professor of radio-astronomy with whom I had conducted a brief but brisk correspondence and, like Mr. Hill with the B.A.A., received no acknowledgment.

No, it isn't good enough. Orthodox pre-saucer scientists aren't going to prove their point by hiding their heads in the sand and refusing discussion, nor by occasionally raising them to cry: "Liar!" They claim that science is impartial and objective. Then let them keep it that way, even if the new facts do not immediately seem to fit into their own ideas of what the Universe is all about.

REVIEWS

MYSTERIES OF SPACE AND TIME

By Dr. H. Percy Wilkins, F.R.A.S. (Frederick Muller, 15s.)

QUITE recently, the Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, F.R.A.S. (who is retiring from his post at the end of the year), reiterated his previous standpoint in regard to flying saucers, by affirming to Canadians that they are "all bunk."

The very month that this illuminating remark reached the world, a book appeared by Dr. H. Percy Wilkins, F.R.A.S., one of Britain's leading astronomers and probably the world's greatest authority on the moon.

Believe it or not, Dr. Wilkins describes how he actually observed three flying saucers! Ironically enough, not through a telescope; but on an aeroplane flight from Charleston, West Virginia, to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 11 last year.

Incidentally, quite a few of the world's astronomers, including Mr. Duncan Fletcher, Vice-President of Kenya Astronomical Association, have also admitted seeing flying saucers. There does seem to be a "split" in the astronomical profession on this important matter.

Dr. Wilkins, in this very readable and fascinating book, covers a great deal of ground. Indeed, he explores the mysteries of the Universe. He deals, in separate chapters, with the sun, the stars, strange Venus, the latest facts about Mars and touches on those debatable canals and odd lights and changes taking place on the moon.

Then, he takes us right out into infinite space; far beyond our own Solar System. To quote one sentence from this absorbing book, "Countless millions of spheres roll in the heavens, in our galaxy and in the millions of others, doubtless millions swarm with life, strange and fantastic, but as real as ourselves."

B. le P. T.

Behind the Flying Saucers
By Frank Scully
(Victor Gollancz)

Flying Saucers From Outer Space
By Donald E. Keyhoe
(Hutchinson)

Flying Saucer From Mars
By Cedric Allingham
(Frederick Muller)

Flying Saucers and Commonsense
By Waveney Girvan
(Frederick Muller)

Flying Saucers Have Landed
By Leslie and Adamski
(T. Werner Laurie)

Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer
By Leonard G. Cramp
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Man in the Universe
By Dr. C. E. Last
(T. Werner Laurie)

Flying Saucers from the Moon
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CROAT PAPER EXPLAINS SAUCERS

FLYING SAUCERS are real and man-made, says an obscure Croat publication.

The first one ever to fly was built at Poitiers, France, in 1939, and was tested before the Poitiers Scientific Association. These facts are attributed to a report published in 1953 by Neki Coanda, a French naval officer of Romanian origin who claimed to have designed a jet aircraft in 1909 and a delta winged machine in 1912. In his report he is said to have stated that flying saucers are a logical development of existing aeronautical designs.

In 1932, Jean Mermoz, the famous French aviation pioneer, built a prototype of an aircraft strongly resembling a flying saucer. It was calculated to be able to exceed 1,250 miles an hour.

German Developments

After the war, Niels Kristiansen, a German scientist who escaped to Brazil, revealed details of German flying saucers. According to him, secret trials took place at Stettin during the war and a machine attained a speed of about 1,300 miles an hour. The story was confirmed by Giuseppe Beluco, an Italian engineer, who claimed to have taken part in the experiments.

Work on the construction of a flying saucer is now going on in the Ysère district of France, continues the paper, under the supervision of an engineer by the name of Charles Dibeaux. The engine of the machine develops three to four times the thrust of a conventional jet and is based on jet principles discovered by a German called Magnus.

During the war the Germans had two secret factories making flying saucers. One near Breslau and the other in the vicinity of Prague. Georg Klein, the rocket engineer who worked for the German Ministry of Supply, says he witnessed the trials and that flying saucers presented few new technical problems. The one tested reached 40,000-ft. altitude and a speed of 2,500 miles an hour. Special light metals of immense strength and resistance to heat were used in its construction to overcome the heat barrier.

In 1944 three flying saucers were in existence. The first was designed by Professor Mithe, who co-operated with Von Braun on the V2. It was a rotating disc 140 ft. in diameter built around a circular cabin. Twelve jet turbines were set around the disc.

The second was built by Habermol and Schreiber and was shaped like a globe surrounded by a ring.

In April, 1955, preliminary tests on a third prototype took place. It was known as a "Flying Cigar." It had a tremendous range and a ceiling of about 40,000 ft. It was sent to Spitzbergen, whence it should have returned. But it crashed and was abandoned. It was later found by a Canadian naval unit and removed to Canada. German scientists went to Canada after the surrender to help reconstruct it.

The flying cigar factory near Prague was in production right up to the arrival of the Soviet forces in Czechoslovakia. But the plans and prototypes were destroyed before they could be captured.

Russian Construction

The Breslau factory, on the other hand, was captured intact and it is believed that the plans the Russians found there are being used for the construction of flying saucer type aircraft at a secret factory at Kashalinsk, near the Aral Sea.

What happened to Habermol no one knows; but Schreiber escaped to Bremen, where he died in 1953. Mithe managed to escape to the Middle East, and there are rumours that he was employed by the French Government until he left for the United States. It is probable, therefore, that he is now designing flying saucers for the Americans and that Habermol is doing precisely the same thing for the Russians.

It appears that Germany was more advanced than any other country in the development of these machines which she hoped to use if the war had not come to an end. For they were estimated to be capable of making the trip from Hamburg to New York, carrying a three- to four-ton bomb load, in approximately 90 minutes. Fantastic rumours are still going round to the effect that Hitler escaped to South America in one.

A Canadian firm is designing a new type of machine called a "Flying Beetle." It is expected to go into service soon. It was designed by John Frost, who considers that the future of flying lies in wingless aircraft.

WORLD ROUNDUP

What was described as "certainly not a normal aircraft—it may have been a flying saucer"—was seen by members of the crew of the Lowestoft motor trawler *Grasby* when she was fishing alone in the North Sea.

Reporting the details to the *Eastern Evening News* on June 13, the skipper, John Howard, D.S.C., said: "We were 130 miles north-east of Smith's Knoll, or 20 miles off the Dutch coast, on Sunday, June 5, at 4 p.m. We were heading north-east and were about to haul our trawl when I saw the object at least 10,000 ft. in the air.

"When I first spotted the object I shouted to the third hand, Martin Spalding, and the deck hand on duty. They saw it, too. It looked to me like a shining shilling. I got my binoculars on it as I spotted it on the starboard quarter. Its speed was so great that within five minutes it had flashed across the clear sky till it was on our starboard bow and had disappeared."

Skipper Howard added: "I am satisfied that it was no plane. I can only think from what I have read about flying saucers that it must have been something of that character. It must have been going faster than any aircraft I have ever known or dreamed of."

Mr. Spalding confirmed the skipper's story, details of which appear in the trawler's log.

★ ★ ★

A couple watching a cricket match in Chiswick Park caught sight of an unidentified flying object flying in a south-westerly direction at 4.30 p.m. on July 10. They were Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Way, of Hammersmith, London.

Said Mr. Way: "I should imagine this silvery disc was about 25,000 ft. up when my wife and I saw it, for it was travelling level with some cirrus cloud in the sky at the time.

"It was very bright and looked about the size of a ha'penny held at arm's length. It was circular, but it had a hump on the top of it.

"The odd thing about it," he added, "was that there seemed to be two of these things very close together; as though one was on top of the other. They were going very much faster than any jet."

★ ★ ★

Looking south at about 8.50 p.m. on May 28, Mr. A. H. Bickmore, of Great East Road, Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, saw a round white light in the sky. It was about double the size of a half-crown standing out against a background of clouds.

After five minutes—during which it changed to yellow, orange, red and blue and assumed a cigar shape—he called his wife.

They watched it for about 20 minutes. Then the light, round again now, became smaller and fainter as if heading due south above the road leading to Kafue. It vanished in a few seconds.

About five minutes later the light shot back into sight again, but much lower this time. After two or three minutes it seemed to lose height and then disappeared behind some trees.

It appeared to be heading for Kafue when last seen.

★ ★ ★

The South African Air Force was always prepared to investigate reports on unidentified flying objects, but it had not yet been considered necessary to send aircraft up to investigate them, said the Air Chief of Staff of the S.A.A.F., Brigadier S. A. Melville, in Pretoria on May 1.

He himself did not disbelieve in the existence of flying saucers and was commenting on the large number of reports about U.F.O.s which had appeared in the Press.

Jet fighters of the S.A.A.F. fighter squadrons stationed in the Pretoria area did their training at heights of 30,000 to 40,000 ft., he said. It was therefore impossible to see or hear them and, although they flew every day, the public were unaware of their presence unless a quick reflection was seen or a vapour trail was formed behind the aircraft. Vapour trails gave rise to many reports.

Other objects fitted into known natural phenomena and balloon categories, but certain observations were difficult to explain.

At the beginning of April the South African Department of Defence labelled all information on saucers seen in South Africa in its files: "Top secret. Not to be divulged."

A large number of people who claim to have seen flying saucers in the Union of South Africa

and Southern Rhodesia have sent the defence authorities completed 20-page questionnaires giving details of their observations.

The Air Chief of Staff said, however, that he had no intention of releasing a statement on flying saucers.

Odd how—although a believer—he changed his mind and followed the same pattern initiated by the Under-Secretary of State for Air, Mr. George Ward, who denied a formal inquiry by the R.A.F. and said : "About 90 per cent of the reports have been found to relate to meteors, balloons, flares and many other objects. The fact that the other ten per cent are unexplained need be attributed to nothing more sinister than lack of data."

★ ★ ★

Reports of flying saucers and mysterious lights are few and far between in Tauranga, said the *Bay of Plenty Times,* of New Zealand, on June 14. But another report has been received—this time very close to home.

A resident of Otumoetai, Mrs. R. R. Booth, reported seeing something "like a big blue star" hovering above Mount Maunganui at 11.30 on the night of June 13. Mrs. Booth, who with her husband and children watched the light for the best part of two hours, said it moved back and forth over the Mount and at one stage moved straight up. At no stage did it move very fast or climb high. The light seemed to move out towards Mayor Island—a small island off the coast—and back again, circling the Mount each time. When it turned at the end of its run it would momentarily disappear.

At about one o'clock in the morning the light, which all the time had been a brilliant blue, moved off up the coast, turning dark pink as it went, said Mrs. Booth.

An official of the Civil Aviation Administration Department at Tauranga airfield said there were certainly no Tauranga aircraft up at that time on that day, although there may have been a R.N.Z.A.F. plane on manœuvres. This, too, was unlikely, he said, as the department had not been asked to leave the beacon on Mount Maunganui burning. The observer had apparently heard no aircraft engines.

★ ★ ★

The inhabitants of the village of El-Salmiya in the governorate of Hama, in Syria, on June 7 saw two flying saucers in the sky travelling at high speed, leaving behind them a long trail of white smoke, reports the *Egyptian Gazette* from Cairo. They looked silvery in colour. (They could have been jet fighters trailing at high altitude. ED.)

★ ★ ★

Mr. William Tiller looked up from the middle of Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, Yorks, on May 27 and saw a flying saucer. "I was mesmerised," he said afterwards, "and no one will convince me that it was anything but a saucer."

It was a perfect circle in the sky and was a shiny chrome colour. "I thought it was an aeroplane at first with the sun glinting on it, but it moved away and it still seemed to shine," he said. "It was going at a terrific speed—faster than any plane—and made off towards Penistone."

★ ★ ★

Widely reported in the British Press on May 26 was the sighting of a silvery cigar-shaped object by the crew of a Portuguese Air Lines Skymaster bound for London from Lisbon.

Reporting it after landing, they said it was cigar-shaped, had no wings and was moving at terrific speed. It was long and slim and seemed to be revolving as it passed under the nose of the airliner.

The flight engineer, Jose Eliva, said: "The object seemed to approach from the port side and pass right under the nose. To me it looked like a silver cigar. There was no smoke-trail coming from it."

The Air Ministry reported that the object was a child's balloon accidentally released from the Dorking area. They quoted the father of the boy who released it as saying: "The cigar seen by the Portuguese crew was a balloon released by my son at about the same time they reported the sighting."

★ ★ ★

A flying disc emitting a dazzling light was seen for the second time by inhabitants of Kamptee, near Nagpur, India, on April 30, said the *Hindu,* a Madras paper.

"The disc was visible for about 20 minutes zooming across the sky at a terrific speed towards the north-west."

The last time it was seen was on December 22, when it was observed travelling in a south-easterly direction.

WORLD ROUNDUP (continued)

A U.F.O. flew over Lagos, Nigeria, on June 3. It was seen by Mr. and Mrs. E. Buck.

They were seeing some friends off at about 11.35 p.m. when they suddenly heard a noise like a rush of air. Looking up, they saw a disc-like object moving across the sky at tremendous speed. It was blue-green, with a tail or exhaust of a similar colour.

Mr. and Mrs. Buck are satisfied that the speed was not as great as that of a meteor or a shooting star. They are equally satisfied that it was not an aircraft; it was going much faster.

★ ★ ★

Reports of flying saucers are evidence of a collective mental illness, says a French medical scientist. He believes that a group delusion such as this may arise from three conditions. A false idea, fear, and certain conditions in the group's environment. The false idea may arise from a natural phenomenon well known to scientists but not to the public generally.

For example, one report described the descent and disappearance of a flying saucer at precisely the moment that the planet Venus descended and disappeared.

Fear is always present in man and, as the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association* comments: "All the best delusions thrive on the enjoyment we derive from being frightened." Psychologists in various countries are now making studies of group delusions, such as flying saucers, to find out why certain ideas take root and spread, he concluded.

In the May-June issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Doctor Carl Jung, the world's most famous psychologist, did not dismiss U.F.O.s as delusions. He said: "A purely psychological explanation is ruled out."

MAIL BAG

Sir,

Within a few days of reading Buck Nelson's remarkable story I came across Dr. H. P. Wilkins' new book "Mysteries of Space and Time." Reading his chapter on the Moon, especially the reference to what appear to be mounds, flashing lights and something which might be vegetation in one of the craters, my mind switched to the significant information given to Buck Nelson by his visitors that there are colonies on the Moon living underground and in bubble houses. The cover of Wilkins' book is also worthy of examination with this clue in mind.

Buck Nelson's information taken with Adamski's firm conviction that the Moon is used as a base by the space travellers presents us with some startling evidence, and with this in mind perhaps some of our astronomers may be encouraged to intensify their observations. I get the impression that Dr. Wilkins has a special reason for drawing attention to these unsolved mysteries at the present time. His sightings of what appears to be a bridge on the Moon is also of great significance. I think we have something here which should be followed up to the limit.

I take it we shall hear more from Mr. Nelson. He leaves us with dozens of questions we want to ask.

ROBERT A. NELSON,
Colombo, Ceylon.

(Buck Nelson writes: "I have been taken on a trip to space since my last story. I visited Mars, the Moon (both sides) and Venus." A complete account of the trip has been promised by Mr. Nelson for the next issue. No comment.—Ed.)

Sir,

In spite of the photographs, etc., it is extremely difficult to believe that we really have visitors from some other planet. My objection is that I cannot find any case of the visitors giving any gift to their host to show that they really come from outer space.

Adamski gave them a writing tablet which they returned with some mysterious scrawls on it. Surely they should have been able to produce some writing paper of their own or given him something from their own planet which would have been convincing? The same thing applies to Allingham. Why did not his Martian give him something? As for the Missouri story with visitors speaking English, etc., nothing could be more improbable. One cannot be surprised that many people find it impossible to believe in flying saucers.

WILFRED WILSON,
Hove, Sussex.

Sir,

The Hampstead explosion referred to in your May-June issue prompts one to ask whether anyone can put forward an answer to this mystery. Time and time again these explosions have been heard in many parts of the world, but no one has yet managed to trace any wreckage.

I have a theory that these explosions are the result of air rushing in to fill a vacuum left by a flying saucer accelerating away at tremendous speed from a standing start.

ROBERT HAMILTON,
London, S.W.1.

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